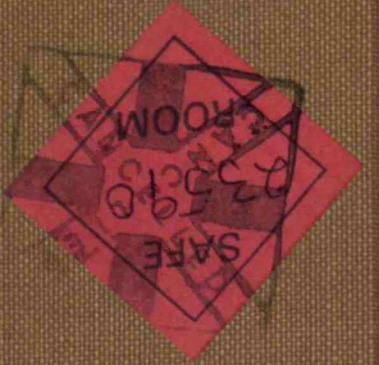


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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

LIBYA

PART 4

January to December 1954

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FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE RESPECTING

LIBYA—PART 4

GENERAL CORRESPONDENCE

JT 1011/1

No. 1

LIBYA: ANNUAL REVIEW FOR 1953

Mr. Ravensdale to Mr. Eden. (Received January 26)

(No. 8. Confidential) *Benghazi,*
Sir, *January, 18, 1954.*

In accordance with the instructions contained in your circular No. 078 of the 9th of September, 1953, I have the honour to submit the following political review of Libya for 1953, and the enclosed summary of the main events.

2. In the second year of independence Libya's most impressive achievement was the conclusion of the Treaty of Friendship and Alliance with Britain and its ancillary military and financial agreements. Such a treaty, as King Idris is wont to remind us, was the fulfilment of an objective which His Majesty had set before his people when the tide of battle brought him back from exile in the war and enabled him to exercise effective leadership in his own country. The details of the military and financial agreements were the subject of protracted and toilsome negotiations which betokened a dogged resolve on the part of the Prime Minister to ensure that the arrangements would not involve any derogation of Libyan sovereignty, independence and dignity. He was mindful of the possibilities of criticism from within and without; the Libyan Parliament included among its members a proportion of Nationalist politicians and others who, owing to the absence of a party system, were free to follow their individual inclination when these instruments were in due course to be laid before the Libyan Parliament and he made it his constant endeavour throughout the negotiations to obtain terms for which he could feel confident of securing eventual ratification without serious risk of embarrassing controversy. His tenacity, helped by his friendly candour and by our understanding of his point of view, served its purpose. After signature, the treaty and agreements were heavily attacked by Egyptian and Arab League propagandists but the Egyp-

tians overplayed their hand and ultimately roused resentment against themselves among moderate and responsible Libyans. Libyan ratification was unexpectedly delayed by a Libyan demand for our agreement to an amendment of the Development Agency Law immediately after ratification in order to give the Libyan chairman a majority vote. Libyan susceptibilities with regard to any appearance of foreign control in the ordering of their affairs seemed exaggerated in this particular connexion but could not be ignored or dispelled. The conclusion of the treaty and agreements was quietly welcomed in Libya; some of the Government's opponents, while openly objecting that Britain was not paying a fair price for the military facilities granted by Libya or that the arrangements were an imperialist imposition, privately admitted that the benefits were indeed mutual, and few allowed their sense of reality to be dulled by specious Egyptian blandishments.

3. The Libyan Government adhered to their resolve that serious discussions with the French and United States Governments with regard to military and financial matters must await the conclusion of the above-mentioned agreements with Britain and were consequently suspected by those Governments of an intention to use the Anglo-Libyan agreements as a lever to secure acceptance of terms equally favourable to Libya, particularly in regard to jurisdiction over their forces stationed in Libya. Meanwhile engineering works for the further development of the United States air base at Wheelus Field, Tripoli, proceeded steadily and the position of the French forces in the Fezzan was safeguarded for the time being by extensions of the interim Franco-Libyan agreement. The French and United States Ministers made repeated efforts to initiate high-level negotiations but serious progress was hampered by Libyan

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procrastination until the end of the year and also, in the case of the French, by Libyan doubt about the political expediency of any durable arrangement with France so long as French policy in North Africa remained a controversial issue and a source of irritation to the Arab world. A substantial body of Libyan public opinion shared that intolerance of France's allegedly reactionary attitude to North African aspirations. Relations with Italy underwent little change during the year except that economic stress and the uncertainties of their future as an alien minority decided an increased number of Italian settlers in Tripolitania to abandon the struggle and return to Italy with their families, despite the Italian Legation's efforts to dissuade them. This movement was noticeably stimulated by the appointment of Saddiq Muntasser as Wali of Tripolitania in the middle of the year. The United Nations Tribunal appointed to adjudicate on outstanding problems regarding the disposal of Italian properties in Libya had its existence prolonged for a further period of two years by a decision of the United Nations General Assembly without any significant judgment being delivered pending the production of documentary evidence in support of an Italian memorial. In June, however, the Italians sent an official delegation to Tripoli in an endeavour to settle matters by means of inter-governmental discussions rather than through the tribunal; the delegation had instructions to be generous to the Libyans as a matter of political expediency, chiefly with a view to securing favourable conditions for Italians settled in Tripolitania, but the Libyan delegation has so far shown a determination to contest every inch of the way. Little progress was made.

4. An analysis of the present relationship between Libya and Egypt reveals certain anomalies but basically the Libyan hope and endeavour is to promote an atmosphere of *bon voisinage*. On the one hand there is deep suspicion of Egyptian designs on Cyrenaica and, as stated above, resentment at Egyptian interference with the Anglo-Libyan Treaty and at suspected intrigues with one of the members of the Senussi family and with a senior official of the Royal Diwan, among others. Libyan commercial circles were cynical about the unfavourable terms of an economic agreement concluded with Egypt early in the year, and an Egyptian company's investigation of the possibilities of agricultural development in the Cyrenaican Jebel suggested a hidden

political interest. On the other hand, the number of Egyptians, especially school-teachers, employed in Libyan administrations continued to increase and the Libyan legal and educational systems were being modelled on Egyptian lines. Libyan students and army cadets were receiving higher education and technical training in Egypt. The Libyans are at times embarrassed by the incompatibility between their position as an ally of Great Britain and the need, in their view, to avail themselves of Egyptian offers of help and for that reason particularly they would welcome a friendly settlement of existing Anglo-Egyptian differences. Libya's admission to the Arab League in March gave general satisfaction at the time but her interest in Arab League politics was lukewarm; the Libyan Government did, however, agree in principle with U.N.R.W.A. to accept 1,200 Palestinian Arab refugee families for settlement in Libya. At one Arab League meeting the Libyan representative had the salutary experience of seeing for himself that a motion to boycott France economically in protest against French North African policy was resisted by certain member States, notably Syria and the Lebanon, as harmful to themselves. On his way back from Europe via Spain and Morocco, King Idris was not deterred by the thought of Arab League reactions from paying a formal call on the Sultan of Morocco and sending him a courteous message on leaving his territory, a gesture which gave much pleasure to the French Government. In the latter half of the year the appointment of a Turkish Minister to Libya was welcomed and there seemed to be ground for hope that a *rapprochement* with Turkey might soon assist in counterbalancing Egyptian influences at work in Libya; King Idris accepted in principle an invitation to visit Turkey in April 1954. Diplomatic relations with India were established in July and in December there was talk of establishing diplomatic relations with Iraq, whose Government had agreed to a Libyan request for the loan of five Iraqi army officers to serve with the Libyan army for two years.

5. Libya's gratitude for the work of the United Nations Organisation in the achievement of full sovereignty and independence was signalled by the honour done to Mr. Adrian Pelt, the former United Nations Commissioner in Libya, when he paid a visit to King Idris in April.

6. Any expectations that the second year of independence would bring marked

progress towards political maturity or consolidation were disappointed. It was not until the end of the year that anything really effective was done to strengthen the flimsy structure of the federal State. King Idris's absence in Egypt until the end of March, the pretext of uncertain health over a period of several months thereafter, and then his later absence in Europe and North Africa until the end of November were not conducive to his lending firm and sustained guidance in the affairs of State or to affording his Prime Minister the overt and unequivocal support which he needed. (It must, however, be conceded that His Majesty exerted a discreet and helpful influence in favour of ratification of the Anglo-Libyan Treaty.) In fact King Idris, to all outward appearances, shrank from the exercise of his constitutional authority and responsibilities and occasionally transgressed them. He failed to prevent irresponsible and improper interference in current affairs, political and administrative, by his pro-Egyptian henchman, Ibrahim Shelhi; it is doubtful whether he was aware of the extent to which Shelhi abused his position in the Diwan and whether he encouraged his Prime Minister and the Head of the Diwan to enlighten him. As a result there was a constant danger that the Prime Minister might find his legitimate authority and responsibility balked by decisions taken without prior consultation with himself, as in the case of the appointment of a new Minister of Finance whom he disliked and distrusted. Mahmoud Muntasser therefore found his position becoming more and more untenable but his threats of resignation were not carried into effect even though his demands for constitutional reforms designed to strengthen the federal Government's hands *vis-à-vis* the provincial administrations were repeatedly shelved. Some of the difficulties which upset Mahmoud Muntasser could no doubt have been averted or resolved if the Federal Supreme Court had come into being as provided by the Constitution but the legislation necessary to establish it was not enacted until towards the end of the year, with the result that a second year of self-government passed without the creation of this essential component of a federal State.

7. Another unsettling factor, especially while the state of the King's health was in people's minds, was the problem of the succession to the throne. A Royal Order promulgated in September 1952 had regulated the order of succession but there

was still no heir apparent and a son, prematurely born in February, only survived birth for a few hours. It was not until December 1953, that King Idris issued a Royal Order designating his brother, the Amir Mohammed al Rida, as his heir presumptive. This decision was generally welcomed by Libyan opinion which, apprehensive of Shelhi's influence, was beginning to see sinister possibilities in the nebulous arrangement whereby, in the absence of an heir apparent, the King was to designate his successor in his will. The Amir Mohammed al Rida was appointed to deputise for King Idris during the latter's absences in Egypt and Europe and acquired a preference for residing in Tripoli. King Idris's stay in Tripoli before leaving for Europe was primarily for medical treatment and had little political significance from the point of view of showing the flag in Tripolitania.

8. The absences from Libya of King Idris and the Prime Minister for lengthy periods during the year were not the only hindrance to federal consolidation. Long delay in passing the budget, which had to await the outcome of the Anglo-Libyan treaty negotiations and subsequent ratification by the Libyan Parliament, necessitated interim financial arrangements between the federal and provincial authorities, the stringency of which tended to hinder the growth of a suitably harmonious relationship. Moreover, the constitutional position of the provincial Governors in relation to the federal Government remained a contentious issue which Mahmoud Muntasser's threats of resignation failed to dissipate despite an occasional admonition by King Idris to the impetuous Saddiq Muntasser, whose appointment as Wali of Tripolitania in June (during Mahmoud Muntasser's absence in London) aggravated the existing friction. The selection of Mohammed Saqisli for the post of Head of the Royal Diwan in September might have been beneficial but for his temporary ill-health and a *contretemps* in connexion with the question whether the federal Government should move to Benghazi in the autumn.

9. The policy of Libyanisation acquired some further momentum during the year, particularly in the Tripolitanian administration, but contractual obligations towards British officials were not dishonoured. The policy of furthering the exclusive use of the Arabic language in the administrations was also made the pretext for effecting reductions in the number of foreign officials

where possible and replacing them by Libyans of doubtful competence. The difficulties which arose with regard to our annual contribution to the Libyan Development and Stabilisation Agency, and which delayed Libyan ratification of the treaty and related agreements, were largely attributable to the desire to give that organisation a new look and divest it of any appearance of foreign control, even though in fact the Libyan Government's ultimate control over its expenditure was already assured.

10. The Libyan-American Technical Assistance Services (L.A.T.A.S.) continued operations under the United States Mutual Security Act (Point Four), but, in spite of regular consultation with the competent Libyan authorities about its projects, did not escape criticism in some quarters, mainly on the alleged ground that its expenditure on personnel and equipment was extravagant and that better results could be achieved by more prudent use of the available financial resources. The Libyan Government made a determined effort to convince the United Nations Economic and Social Council of the need for additional assistance in promoting social and economic development and the new Minister of Finance followed this up by visiting Lake Success to canvass support for a proposal, which the General Assembly adopted, inviting individual Governments, willing and able to do so, to provide financial assistance for Libyan reconstruction and development. The resolution also kept the problem of war damages in Libya alive.

11. The effort of raising and training a Libyan army with the assistance of the British Military Mission was not as smooth as might have been hoped but was nevertheless not unsuccessful. The raw recruits enrolled proved to be good material. The Minister of Defence made a bad choice when he visited Turkey to select one of a number of Turkish army officers of Libyan origin to assume command. The officer selected, Colonel Omran Jadra, was entirely unsuited by temperament and experience for the responsibility of command and he failed to co-operate with the Military Mission as he should have done. His blatant ineptitude and the Libyan Government's pusillanimity were a sore trial to the mission and blunted the keenness of the subordinate Libyan officers. Nevertheless, the first batch of recruits responded well to the elementary training and created a

favourable impression among onlookers at the Independence Day parade in Benghazi on the 24th of December. Five Iraqi officers were nominated in December on secondment for regimental duties with the Libyan army for a period of two years and two more retired Turkish officers were expected to assume administrative duties in the Ministry of Defence. Recruiting was resumed towards the end of the year for the purpose of completing the strength of the first regiment and beginning the formation of a second regiment.

12. In the economic sphere the general tone was dull. Tradesmen complained of lack of turnover owing to limited purchasing power; in any case they had begun the year in an overstocked position. As has been indicated above, the budget delays circumscribed both the Development Agency's activities and the governmental development programme within narrow limits. The Libyan Finance Corporation failed to interest the banks in its scheme for medium- and long-term loans and consequently made a negligible contribution to the national economy. An experimental freight and passenger air service between Tripoli and Benghazi operated by Silver City Airways was unsuccessful and was withdrawn pending the outcome of discussions regarding the formation of a predominantly Libyan airways company.

13. Nothing more was heard of the law to regulate the acquisition of immovable property by foreigners; this measure, passed by Parliament in 1952, was referred back by King Idris for reconsideration and has dropped out of sight for the time being. Its main impact would have fallen on the Italian community in Tripolitania.

14. Some further progress was made with legislation to regulate the grant of concessions to petroleum companies; a draft petroleum mining law setting forth conditions as regards payment of rents, royalties, income taxes and shares of profits was strenuously opposed by American interests since it recognised priority of application, thus favouring the Shell Oil Company and the D'Arcy Exploration Company (A.I.O.C.) who had undertaken geological surveys in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica in 1951. This draft law was not actually enacted in 1953 but instead a minerals law, enabling the grant of permits to survey, was passed in September.

I have, &c.

T. C. RAVENSDALE.

Enclosure

*Calendar of Principal Events in Libya
in 1953*

January 3.—Extension for a further period of three months of the agreement on the financial arrangements for the maintenance of the standard of facilities available at Idris and Benina Airports.

January 15.—Formal opening of negotiations for an Anglo-Libyan Treaty and Military and Financial Agreements.

January 26.—First General Assembly of the Libyan Finance Corporation.

February 2.—Death of newly born son and heir of King Idris.

February 21.—Signature of the Anglo-Libyan Civil Air Services Agreement.

March 3-9.—Elections for Tripolitanian Legislative Assembly.

March 12.—Birthday of King Idris.

March 21.—Extension of the Interim Anglo-Libyan Financial and Military Agreements until July 31.

March 28.—Libya's application to become a member of the Arab League approved.

March 29.—Inauguration of the Tripolitanian Legislative Assembly.

April 2.—Essayed Mansur Qaddara appointed as first Libyan Minister to the Court of St. James.

April 7-17.—Official visit to Libya of Mr. Adrian Pelt, the former United Nations Commissioner to Libya.

May 28.—Visit of the United States Secretary of State, Mr. Foster Dulles, and Mr. Stassen to Tripoli.

May 30.—The Libyan Prime Minister left for London to attend the Coronation of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth and to continue negotiations for an Anglo-Libyan Treaty and related Agreements.

June 13.—Dismissal of Essayed Fadl Ben Zikri, Wali of Tripolitania, together with his Nazirs of Finance and of the Interior. Appointment of Essayed Saddiq Muntasser as the new Wali of Tripolitania.

July 29.—Signature of Anglo-Libyan Treaty and Military and Financial Agreements at Benghazi.

August 4.—Anglo-Libyan Treaty and related Agreements laid before Libyan Parliament.

August 18.—Bill to approve ratification of Anglo-Libyan Treaty and related Agreements passed Libyan Chamber of Deputies.

September 1.—The Libyan Government decided to postpone discussion in the Senate on the Anglo-Libyan Treaty and related Agreements pending a further exchange of views with Her Majesty's Government on the interpretation of article 2 of the Anglo-Libyan Financial Agreement.

September 9.—Libyan Prime Minister left Tripoli for medical treatment in Europe.

September 18.—The following Cabinet changes were announced: Essayed Mohammed Saqisly, Minister of Education, to be Chief of the Royal Diwan; Essayed Abu Bakir Naamah, formerly Minister of Finance, to be Minister of Education; Dr. Ali Aneizi to be Minister of Finance.

September 26.—Mahmud Muntasser, the Libyan Prime Minister, returned to Tripoli following the King's refusal to accept his resignation, which had been telegraphed to the King on September 20.

September 27.—King Idris left for Switzerland via Tunis for medical treatment.

October 7.—Celebration of Libyan Constitution Day.

October 21.—Libyan Senate approved the ratification of the Anglo-Libyan Treaty and Military and Financial Agreements.

October 31.—Anglo-Libyan Treaty promulgated by Royal decree.

November 24.—King Idris returned to Libya.

December 7.—Instruments of ratification of the Anglo-Libyan Treaty and Military and Financial Agreements exchanged at Benghazi.

December 10.—Opening of Federal Parliament in Benghazi and completion of the temporary move of the Federal Government from Tripoli to Benghazi.

December 21.—Amir Mohammed Rida al Mahdi al Senussi appointed as heir to King Idris.

December 24.—Libyan Independence Day.

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No. 2

POSITION OF THE PROPOSED FRANCO-LIBYAN AGREEMENT

Sir Alec Kirkbride to Mr. Eden. (Received February 24)

(No. 24. Confidential)

Sir,

Benghazi,

February 17, 1954.

I have the honour to refer to my telegram No. 29 of the 15th of February, 1954, on the subject of the position of the proposed Franco-Libyan treaty or agreement.

2. When I came to Benghazi on my return from vacation leave, I found the question as to whether the Libyan Government should conclude a treaty or agreement which would give France rights or facilities in the Fezzan to be well to the fore in both official and unofficial circles. The acceptance of the resignation of the Libyan Prime Minister a few days ago has distracted attention elsewhere for the moment but I anticipate that, as soon as the new Council of Ministers has settled down to work, relations with France will once more become an urgent issue.

3. At a talk on the 13th of February, 1954, with Omar Pasha Mansur, the President of the Senate, and Fathi Kekhia, then Minister of Justice, they both said that, in the present state of public opinion in Libya, it would be impossible to secure the acceptance of any form of agreement between Libya and France. Fathi Kekhia then asked whether Great Britain, as Libya's ally, could not assist in getting the French forces and influence out of the Fezzan.

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I reacted against this proposition strongly and said that such action by Her Majesty's Government was out of the question. I pointed out that Great Britain was the ally of France as well as of Libya and could not afford to quarrel with the former over the Fezzan. I apologised for the bluntness of my reply saying that I would be rendering them an ill service by leaving them in any doubt as to Great Britain's attitude towards this matter.

4. The next person to mention the problem to me was Mohamed Saqisli, then Head of Royal Diwan and now Prime Minister designate. He asked me if I thought that France had any colonial aspirations with regard to the Fezzan. I expressed the view that the interest of the French Government in the Fezzan was to prevent that territory being used as a base for activities against neighbouring French colonial territories but that France could not have any territorial ambitions in the Fezzan itself. Mohamed Bey said that there was no hope of getting a treaty of alliance with France and a military annex on the lines of those with Great Britain accepted by the Libyan public at present but it might be possible, although difficult, to secure the acceptance of a Franco-Libyan treaty of amity which granted to the French forces facilities of communication across the Fezzan.

5. About the same time, Ibrahim Shelhi, Nazir of the Royal Household, indulged in an outburst of anti-French sentiments when a member of my staff mentioned that I had travelled back to Libya via Tunis.

Abdu Rahman Galhud, a Tripolitanian deputy, also made the proposal to a member of my staff that Great Britain, as Libya's ally, was bound to assist her against the French in the Fezzan.

Mahmud Muntasser, when I spoke to him on the subject, said that he was genuinely anxious to secure some agreement between Libya and France but that he was opposed by some of the Council of Ministers and faced with a public generally hostile to the idea.

6. As reported in my telegram under reference, the Cyrenaican Press is opposing any form of agreement between Libya and France. The general public seem to feel that, now that Great Britain is bound to Libya by a treaty, the importance of securing agreements with the other Western Powers has diminished; that some sort of agreement with the United States will emerge in due course but that it is not necessary or desirable for Libya to have a formal agreement with the country which is oppressing the Moslems of North Africa.

Mahmud Muntasser was personally in favour of an accord with the French both because he had committed himself with my French colleague and probably because he believed that French influence in the Fezzan would check the territorial ambitions of the Seif al Nasr family with regard to the Sirte region of Tripolitania. He was, however, opposed by two influential colleagues, Fathi Kekhia and Dr. Ali Aneizi.

Mohamed Saqisli, the Prime Minister designate, seems, as you will have seen, to be well disposed to the idea of an agreement with the French but it will be some time before he will be able to give attention to the problem.

7. Apart from my negative reaction to any idea of Great Britain assisting Libya against France, I have advised against the creation of a crisis and suggested that efforts should be made to dispose of the American Base agreement first in the hope that the unpopularity of France may have diminished in the meanwhile. This policy will necessitate the extension of the interim arrangements with France when they expire at the end of March 1954, and the difficulty in this connection arises from the fact that Mahmud Muntasser promised the Libyan Parliament that there should be no further extensions of the interim agreement with France. The change in the Council of Ministers may, however, now facilitate a further extension.

As stated in my telegram under reference, I believe that an attempt to force through an agreement with France now would create so much opposition as to defeat its own object.

8. I am copying this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, and to the Head of the British Middle East Office.

I have, &c.

A. S. KIRKBRIDE.

JT 1015/19

No. 3

**THE CIRCUMSTANCES UNDER WHICH MAHMUD MUNTASSER
RESIGNED AS LIBYAN PRIME MINISTER ON FEBRUARY 15, 1954**

Sir Alec Kirkbride to Mr. Eden. (Received February 24)

(No. 22. Confidential) *Benghazi,*
Sir, *February 18, 1954.*

I have the honour to refer to my telegram No. 28 of the 15th of February in which I reported that the resignation of the Libyan Prime Minister, Mahmud Muntasser, had been accepted by King Idris and that the head of the Royal Diwan, Mohamed Saqisli, had been asked by King Idris to form a new Government.

2. When I called on Mahmud Muntasser on my return I found that he had assumed a rôle which can only be described as that of a spectator. He was full of complaints against King Idris whose attitude of mind was, according to Mahmud Bey, the cause of all the trouble. He did not think that matters could be remedied by a judgment of the Supreme Court on the constitutional problems which were before it, or by changing the personnel of the Council of Ministers: only a fundamental change of attitude by the King, which was probably too much to hope for, could put matters right.

He went on to say that he was not kept informed by King Idris about developments of direct concern to the Minister for Foreign Affairs such as the invitation to the King to visit Turkey. The King had complicated the question of the Libyan army beyond belief by asking both Turkish and Iraqi officers to take over executive functions.

Mahmud Bey said that his resignation dated last October was still pending in the King's hand and the latter would have to decide one way or the other soon.

When I took up a number of questions with him, including the details of the passage of Her Majesty The Queen through Libyan territory in May next, Mahmud Bey asked me to discuss them direct with King Idris who held all the reins in his hands.

It was interesting that, at no point, did he attempt to blame Ibrahim Shelhi for his troubles, as he has done so often in the past. I am told that Mahmud Bey actually consulted Shelhi during his earlier attempts to reform the Council of Ministers.

3. It was evident that Mahmud Bey's state made his retention in the post of Federal Prime Minister of little or no value to anybody. Moreover, it was evident that

there was a difference of opinion between members of the Council of Ministers on the question of the desirability or otherwise of Libya concluding an agreement with France. Mahmud Bey appeared to be genuinely anxious for an agreement with France while at least one other Minister, besides Fathi Kekhia, was in favour of rooting out French influence from the Fezzan (*vide* my telegram No. 29 of the 15th of February).

In all these circumstances, I was not perturbed when on the 15th of February King Idris accepted Mahmud Bey's resignation and asked Mohamed Saqisli to form a new Government.

A preliminary to this step was the presentation to all members of the outgoing Council of Ministers and to the new Prime Minister designate of high Libyan decorations by King Idris.

4. On the evening of the 15th Mahmud Bey announced the acceptance of his resignation to the Libyan Parliament and asked that body to give to his successor the same degree of support which he had received. The President of the Chamber of Deputies replied in cordial terms.

Speaking in confidence to a member of my staff later that evening, Mahmud Bey showed a commendable lack of bitterness although he still emphasised that the basic reason for his departure was his inability to collaborate effectively with King Idris. It is, therefore, possible to say that the change is taking place with a minimum of ill-feeling.

5. From our point of view, the choice of Mohamed Saqisli could hardly be bettered. He has always been friendly and co-operative in spite of a streak of Cyrenaican obstinacy. My Italian and French colleagues, however, may not be so happy about the appointment as Mohamed Bey has not concealed his suspicion of Italian ambitions in Libya and his resentment at the French domination of the Fezzan. Nevertheless, he has latterly shown himself to be in favour of an agreement with France, both in conversations with Mr. Ravensdale during my absence and with myself since my return.

SECRET

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Fathi Kekhia was a possible alternative candidate for the post of Federal Prime Minister but he has fallen from the King's favour of late. I am told that the *agrément* of the United States Government to Fathi Bey's appointment as first Libyan Minister to Washington has been sought.

At the moment of signing this despatch the discussions about the formation of a

new Council of Ministers are still under way.

6. I am copying this despatch to Her Majesty's Representatives at Washington, Rome, Paris, Cairo, Bagdad, Amman, Damascus, Beirut and Jedda and to the Head of the British Middle East Office.

I have, &c.

A. S. KIRKBRIDE.

JT 10316/1

No. 4

THE GROWTH OF EGYPTIAN INFLUENCE IN LIBYA

Sir Alec Kirkbride to Mr. Eden. (Received March 4)

(No. 11. Confidential)

Tripoli,

Sir,

February 23, 1954.

I have the honour to submit a report on the growth of Egyptian influence in Libya based upon observations made here after an absence of nearly six months.

2. The influence of Egypt in Libya is now second only to that of Great Britain and the former is stronger in Cyrenaica than it is in Tripolitania. That this should be so is largely inevitable owing to Egypt being the only independent State neighbouring Libya and to the effect of the Egyptian Press which is read widely throughout the Arab world. To the Cyrenaicans, who are the nearest neighbours to Egypt, that country has, for long past, been the refuge in times of oppression and the holiday place in happier circumstances. It is true that the Tripolitani-ans look traditionally to the "Mohgreb," of which their home province really forms part, but the rest of the "Mohgreb" is still under European domination and cannot, therefore, compete with Egypt for political or cultural eminence. The average Libyan does not respect the Egyptians individually although he may envy them their wealth and education and few in this country have any illusions about the financial and political instability of the present régime in Egypt. Nevertheless, the fact remains that the Libyans, like other Eastern peoples who have been under Western domination, cannot fail to feel secret satisfaction at the sight of an Eastern country scoring off the Western Powers. This must be remembered when the particular problem of countering Egyptian influence is being considered.

3. The most important means by which Egyptian influence is spread is through the activities of the numerous Egyptian officials who are employed by the Libyan authorities. It is not unnatural that, in the absence of trained Libyan candidates for a vacancy, resort should be had to the engagement of Egyptians. Egypt is the nearest source of supply for Arab officials, many parts of the Libyan administration are modelled on the Egyptian pattern and lastly the Egyptian Government continues to pay the salaries of Egyptian civil servants seconded to Libya and allows them to draw, in addition, the Libyan salaries attached to their posts. These Egyptians are, therefore, less costly to the Libyan Government than British personnel or than unsubsidised Arabs from other Middle Eastern countries. The most damage to British interests is being done by the considerable number of Egyptian teachers who are employed in the Libyan schools. These people are in a position to poison the minds of the rising generation of Libyans against the Western Powers in general and against Great Britain in particular.

4. I turn now to certain factors which are operating against Egyptian influence in Libya.

In the first place, the ratification of the Anglo-Libyan Treaty produced a widespread reaction in our favour, even amongst the erstwhile opponents of the treaty, and this has not failed to affect Egyptian prestige, specially after the overt and desperate attempts made by the Egyptian Legation to prevent the signature and the ratification. The effect of this failure is, however, being

offset in part by the present attitude of Egypt in opposing the conclusion of an agreement between France and Libya. This attitude undoubtedly corresponds with what most Libyans feel on that subject.

Secondly, Turkey is beginning to play a part in Libya which is not favourable to Egypt and is unlikely to become so in the future. Moreover, to the surprise of many Libyans, the Iraqi army officers who arrived recently on attachment to the Libyan army have shown themselves to be hostile to Egypt in a number of instances.

Thirdly, the Egyptians do themselves a lot of harm. The Libyans have found that their trade agreement with Egypt works to the almost exclusive benefit of that country and they consider that they have been tricked. The political *volte face*, such a feature of Egyptian life of late and, in particular, the suppression of the "Akhwan el Muslimeen," have produced a feeling of mixed irritation and derision which is imperfectly concealed by the excuses for the Egyptian actions which many Libyans feel impelled to make when discussing the question with foreigners.

5. King Idris is undoubtedly basically hostile and distrustful of Egyptian influence and policy but his reactions are tempered by his anxiety to keep on reasonably friendly terms with his neighbour and in particular, the latter's press. The Egyptian ambitions to amend the eastern frontier of Libya to their territorial advantage is a source of constant vexation to King Idris and a more recent incident to which I referred in passing in my demi-official letter to Mr. E. B. Boothby of the African Department of the 17th of February 1954 has angered him and was responsible for his decision, reported in my letter under reference, not to visit Turkey so long as the journey entailed his passing through Egyptian territory.

Apparently the Egyptian Minister sought an audience with King Idris as soon as the latter returned to Benghazi from his European tour and announced that he had come to arrange the details of the King's visit to Egypt. When King Idris replied that he had no present intention of visiting Egypt, the Egyptian Minister stated that the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs was in posses-

sion of a letter signed by Ibrahim Shelhi to the effect that King Idris would visit Egypt as soon as he got back from Europe. Ibrahim Shelhi denied having signed any such letter and demanded that the original should be produced. This the Egyptians failed to do and admitted eventually that their *démarche* was based on a report from the Military Attaché of the Egyptian Embassy in Paris that he had been informed by King Idris of the latter's intention to visit Egypt. King Idris replied that no such visit had ever been thought about let alone promised.

6. Our most effective weapon to check and counter the spread of Egyptian influence would seem to be King Idris, specially as he shows signs of playing a greater part in the direction of affairs than he has done hitherto. I propose to concentrate on this aspect of the problem during the coming summer when I hope to see King Idris frequently. The most difficult task which I foresee is to limit the number of Egyptian officials employed by Libyan authorities. This is aggravated by the fact that the salaries offered to British officials seem, in Libyan eyes, to be unduly high, whereas, in fact, they are too low in many instances to attract suitable candidates. Egyptians on the other hand, are able, thanks to open subsidisation, willingly to accept the low salaries attached to posts as junior as those for school teachers. When this difficulty is explained to Libyan Ministers their usual reaction is to ask why Her Majesty's Government cannot subsidise British personnel employed by the Libyan Government.

7. To summarise, Egyptian influence has increased in volume during the last year or so but may also be said to have decreased in effectiveness. It is difficult to check but, as has been indicated above, there are factors present which are in our favour.

8. I am copying this despatch to Her Majesty's Representatives at Ankara, Baghdad and Cairo and to the Head of the British Middle East Office.

I have, &c.

A. KIRKBRIDE.

JT 10316/4

No. 5

EGYPTIAN INFLUENCE IN LIBYA

Sir Alec Kirkbride to Mr. Eden. (Received April 22)(No. 45. Confidential
Sir,*Benghazi,
April 9, 1954.*

I have the honour to refer to my despatch No. 11 dated the 23rd of February, 1954, on the subject of Egyptian influence in Libya.

2. The remark which I made in paragraph 4 of that despatch to the effect that the Egyptians do themselves a lot of harm is being borne out fully by subsequent developments in Libya.

As a result of the overbearing behaviour of the Egyptian officials employed in the Provincial Courts of Tripolitania, they are no longer on speaking terms with their Libyan colleagues and the latter are now banded with their British and Italian colleagues in an anti-Egyptian alliance.

3. Even prior to the recent decision taken by the Supreme Court on the subject of the dissolution of the Tripolitanian Legislative Council, for which the Egyptian judges are deemed to be responsible, the Wali of Tripolitania, who is extreme in his likes and dislikes, had taken a violent antipathy to local Egyptian officials because the latter, either intentionally or otherwise, had tended to frequent Libyan circles in opposition to the Present Provincial Administration of Tripolitania. The issue of the decision which declared all that the Wali had done in connection with the dissolution to be null and void led the latter openly to declare the whole affair to be an Egyptian plot aimed at disrupting the union.

4. What is more important is that King Idris seems to have decided that the Egyptians are siding with his opponents on constitutional issues and are working in favour of a unitary State of Libya. It will be remembered that a unitary State was the aim of Beshir Saadawi and his supporters, who were notoriously supported by Egyptian funds, and who broke with the King originally on that issue. The King has been encouraged in this attitude by many of his old supporters who are now in the Cyrenaican Police and who have represented to him that the new Judicial Procedure Law, which is based on the

Egyptian model, is designed to deprive the police of their power, which they wield on the King's behalf, and place it in the hands of Egyptian judges.

As a result, King Idris flatly refused recently to sign the appointment of a new Egyptian judge to the Cyrenaican Courts although the unfortunate individual had already arrived in Benghazi to take up his post.

5. The President of the Libyan Parliament told a member of my staff lately and, entirely on his own initiative, that he did not favour the recent influx of Egyptian officials which was not what had been intended when the Parliament had demanded the Arabisation of the civil service.

The Wali of Cyrenaica has also said that the Egyptians in his administration were more trouble than they were worth.

6. It is evident, therefore, that there is quite a wide reaction against the spread of Egyptian influence present both in Cyrenaica and Tripolitania. The Egyptians themselves have contributed largely to its existence.

For us to have opposed openly the appointment of Egyptians might well have had an effect opposite to that desired and I have found the most effective means of combating Egyptian influence to be a combination of (a) expressing regret at the manner in which the Egyptians are wrecking their own country and (b) twitting the Libyans on becoming followers of Egypt instead of standing on their own feet, which they are quite capable of doing.

In connection with the last point, a recent article in the *Sunday Times*, which described Libya as being in danger of becoming an Egyptian satellite, was most useful. There is little an Arab likes less than being accused of being subservient to other Arabs.

7. I am copying this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Cairo and to the Head of the British Middle East Office.

I have, &c.

A. KIRKBRIDE.

JT 1015/38

No. 6

**DECISION OF THE SUPREME COURT OF LIBYA INVALIDATING THE
ROYAL DECREE DISSOLVING THE TRIPOLITANIAN LEGISLATIVE
COUNCIL**

Sir Alec Kirkbride to Mr. Eden. (Received April 22)

(No. 44. Confidential)

Benghazi,

Sir,

April 9, 1954.

I have the honour to refer to the recent decision of the Supreme Court of Libya to the effect that the Royal Decree dissolving the Tripolitanian Legislative Council was wrong in form and, therefore, null and void. This decision forms the subject of my letter 1012/4/54 which was written from Tripoli on the 6th of April, 1954.

2. Immediately after the decision was handed down the Wali of Tripolitania, Saddiq Muntasser, assembled the various notables and headmen of the province and announced that the elections for the new Council would continue, notwithstanding the finding of the Supreme Court, and that he acknowledged no authority but that of King Idris.

The Wali was summoned to Benghazi by the King and came here by air on the 8th of April, 1954, returning the same day. He did not, in the event, see King Idris as the latter was ill. He saw the Nazir of the Royal Household, Ibrahim Shelhi, and is presumed to have been told to ignore the Supreme Court because he announced before returning to Tripoli that the elections for the new Council would continue.

The Federal Prime Minister sent word to Saddiq Muntasser asking the latter to call on him before returning to Tripoli but the Wali ignored the summons completely.

3. In the meanwhile numerous telegrams for and against the Supreme Court were passing between Tripoli and Benghazi. Members of the Libyan Parliament seemed for the most part to have accepted the decision of the Court with pleasure and numerous deputies saw the Prime Minister and asked him to ensure that it was accepted. The position taken up by the Federal Government was that the decision of the Court was mandatory but the Prime Minister admitted in private that he had no authority over the Wali. The Prime Minister received a telegram from the President of the Supreme Court on the morning of the 8th, saying that the Court was the object of hostile demonstrations organised by the Wali and asking that the Federal Government should take immediate steps to protect them.

The next development was the delivery at about 1100 hours on the 8th, of a letter to the Prime Minister from King Idris. The Prime Minister placed the letter before the Council of Ministers and then sent his resignation to the King. The resignation was accepted by the King who then asked Mustapha ben Halim, the Minister of Communications in the outgoing Government, to form a new Council of Ministers. I have no certain knowledge of the contents of this letter but it seems to be certain that it supported the Wali in his defiance of the Supreme Court.

4. The inability of anyone, except Ibrahim Shelhi, to gain access to King Idris owing to the latter's illness makes it difficult to obtain direct evidence of what is going on in the King's mind but it seems to be certain that he is reacting against the finding that a Royal Decree is only valid when countersigned by a Federal Minister, or, in other words, that he can only act through his Ministers.

Ibrahim Shelhi, who usually reflects the King's attitude, told a member of my staff on the 8th that the Wali was quite right to ignore the decisions of the Court as they were unconstitutional and would have turned Libya into a unitary State. He added "the dogs of Egyptians have always tried to impose a unitary régime upon us."

The selection by King Idris of Mustapha ben Halim to succeed Mohammed Saqisli is also interesting because Mustapha Bey has always been a champion of the Provinces against the Federal Government's attempts to impose its authority.

5. This incident, which may have serious and widespread consequences appears to be the first move in a battle between the "provincials," who wish to preserve the present loose form of federation and who are led by King Idris and the Palace, and the "federalists" who wish to restrict the King's power and to move towards a more united form of government. In the minds of King Idris and his supporters, the Egyptian influence is believed to be behind the "federalists."

To me, it seems to be inevitable that this contest should have a disruptive effect on the Union.

6. Mustapha ben Halim, the new Prime Minister Designate, has always been a "King's man." In the past he has shown signs of being in favour of the employment of Egyptian personnel in Libya but, if the King has now turned against Egyptian influence, Mustapha Bey may be depended upon to do so as well. He has not been anti-British in the past and was largely responsible during the negotiations in London for our being able to obtain a fairly satisfactory schedule of agreed lands in the province of Cyrenaica.

7. I am told that some of the Judges of the Supreme Court, including the Jordanian member, Auni Bey Dajani, feel that a decision on so important a constitutional issue should only have been taken by a Court consisting of all the members.

8. Mohammed Saqisli has, as usual, suggested that I should use my influence to convince the King of the error of his ways. I was, however, travelling by road between Tripoli and Benghazi on the 7th and 8th and, therefore, in no position to play any part in this sudden ministerial crisis, even if I had wished to do so.

It is by no means clear to me as yet as to whether, I should attempt to influence the King. For the moment, the Egyptians seem to be becoming increasingly unpopular in high Libyan circles and this, for us, is of major importance. I am inclined, therefore, to think that for the moment I should endeavour to encourage that tendency without taking sides in the constitutional battle which shows every sign of developing.

9. The appointment on the 11th of April, 1954, of a new Council of Ministers, of which the membership was reported in my telegram No. 90 of the 12th of April, coincided with a sudden swing of public opinion in Cyrenaica in favour of King Idris. A growing number of people came round to the conclusion that the Supreme Court had gone beyond the deciding of a clear cut legal point and had, in fact, initiated a political move which was directed against King Idris personally.

The original demonstrations in Tripoli and Benghazi against the decision of the Supreme Court were organised by various trade unions and were inspired by the Walis. On the 10th and 11th, however, there was the possibility in Benghazi of counter demonstrations and of demonstrations against Egyptian interference in Libyan affairs. Special police precautions were taken including a guard on the Egyptian Legation.

10. The judgment, which is said to be lengthy, has not yet been published but a translation will be forwarded as soon as I have been able to obtain an authentic copy of the Arabic text.

The immediate problem before the new Government is how to deal with a judgment by the Supreme Court of the country which the Government does not, apparently, propose to execute.

11. I am copying this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Cairo and to the Head of the British Middle East Office.

I have, &c.

A. KIRKBRIDE.

JT 1015/49

No. 7

VISIT BY THE FEDERAL PRIME MINISTER TO THE FEZZAN

Sir Alec Kirkbride to Mr. Eden. (Received June 9)

(No. 58. Confidential)

Benghazi.

Sir,

May 28, 1954.

I have the honour to report that Mustapha ben Halim, the Federal Prime Minister, accompanied by two other members of the Council of Ministers, paid an official visit to the Fezzan from the 17th to the 20th of May, 1954. The visit was the first to be made by a Federal Prime Minister to that province since Libya became an independent State.

2. The Prime Minister travelled in an aircraft provided by the United States Air Force and was accompanied as far as Sebha by Mr. Nes, the First Secretary to the American Legation at Tripoli. Mr. Nes stayed in the French Military Mess

at Sebha, the first place of arrival, and did not accompany the Prime Minister on the part of his tour accomplished by motor car. He did, however, go on with the Prime Minister in the aircraft to Ghat and Ghadames.

The French Legation was displeased both by the use of an American aircraft and by the presence of Mr. Nes. The French Minister, M. Dumarçay, saw Mr. Villard personally in order to object on the latter point but was unable to get the programme changed.

3. There has been other evidence latterly of French uneasiness at the increased interest which is being shown in the Fezzan by the American Legation and Armed Forces.

Latterly, the Corps of Engineers of the United States Army offered to Sir Arthur Dean, the General Manager of the Libyan Development and Stabilisation Agency, to allow the American Company which is engaged on an aerial survey of parts of Cyrenaica and Tripolitania on behalf of the United States Armed Forces, to carry out, at the expense of the United States Government, a survey of either side of the track from Misurata to Sebha which is the main line of communication from Tripoli to the Fezzan and which might be the alignment of a future asphalted road linking the two provinces. A member of the French Legation protested orally to the American Legation against any such survey being made in Fezzan territory.

It also appears that the French Legation sent a note to the American Legation about this time, complaining against the practice of providing American aircraft to fly Libyan officials to the Fezzan.

4. There seems to have been some misunderstanding during the Prime Minister's visit between Mustapha Bey and M. Dumarçay on the subject of honours. Prior to the commencement of the journey, M. Dumarçay sent word to the Prime Minister that French guards would salute him on arrival at each station where French forces were present. The Prime Minister in reply said that he would prefer that it should not be done as he was visiting the provincial authorities and not the French forces.

Later, however, the Prime Minister complained that he had been neglected by the French.

5. After his return to Benghazi, the Prime Minister told me that he found the situation in the Fezzan disquieting. The real power was in the hands of the Deputy Wali, Abdel Jelil Seif el Nasr, who was young, uneducated, inexperienced and, worst of all, entirely Egyptian in his outlook. The Deputy Wali was rabidly anti-French and openly opposed to any form of treaty or military agreement giving France any rights in his province.

There was a pro-French party in the Fezzan but it was not powerful enough and the French, as usual, had used their supporters in the past to suppress the true majority of the inhabitants of the country. The inevitable result was that the pro-French party were now regarded as traitors.

Mustapha Bey felt that if matters were left as they were, one of two things would happen, either the province would fall into chaos or there would be an armed clash between the provincial police and the French forces. It was impossible, given the terms of the Libyan Constitution, for the Federal Government to establish effective control over the Fezzan but King Idris could and should do so. He had discussed with the King the possibility of appointing some dependable Cyrenaican as Wali of the Fezzan, but the idea had been discarded as likely to cause tribal trouble, which the French would doubtless welcome as an excuse for armed intervention. It might, however, be revived later on when the royal control over the province was stronger. His present idea was for one of the Senussi family to go and live in the Fezzan for a while as an unofficial representative of the King. The man he had in mind was Essayed Saddiq el Ridha, the King's nephew.

He did not know whether Essayed Saddiq would accept such a role and he agreed with a suggestion that the scheme might not be welcome to the French Government.

6. One of the first steps to establish the control referred to above, has been to appoint a Cyrenaican police officer, who has worked hitherto in the Cyrenaican Criminal Investigation Department, as Commissioner of Police in the Fezzan. The new Commissioner is in close touch with the Royal Diwan.

This appointment, coming shortly after five French "instructors" of the Fezzan police had been given notice of the termination of their contracts, was most unwelcome to the French Legation but the latter has, however, no solid grounds for complaint.

7. The picture on the French side is unhappy. The French advisers to the provincial authorities have, by all accounts, little influence and are, as a result, in a state of despondency and frustration. The members of the French Legation realise that they are losing gradually the privileged position in the Fezzan, to which they have sought to cling too closely following the declaration of independence, and they seem at a loss for a means of restoring the situation. My French colleague, who rarely visited the Fezzan in the past, now, however, goes there at short intervals. He has also established a French Consular Agency at Sebha. The French authorities are acutely jealous of any one who appears to be attempting to replace them, as is indicated by their attitude towards the use of American aircraft and the presence of American personnel referred to above.

So far this jealousy has not been directed against any British connection but I fear that, when the influence and control of King Idris makes itself more evident, we shall be suspected of having inspired or abetted the move.

8. The Libyan Prime Minister was definitely of the opinion, as was his predecessor, that there was no prospect of the Libyan Parliament accepting any form of agreement with France which would accord to that country the privileges and authority in the Fezzan which the French officials had exercised there for some two years after Libya became independent. In fact, it was evident, although he did not say so in so many words, that Mustapha ben Halim considered that nothing short of the resort to the use of force would enable the French to revert to that earlier position.

In the circumstances, the decision to establish the influence of King Idris over the province is logical and, from the purely Libyan point of view, probably the policy best suited to the interests of the country.

9. It will be noticed incidentally that the opinion of the Prime Minister on the subject of the loyalties of the Deputy Wali of the Fezzan does not agree with that expressed to me by the Libyan Minister to Egypt, Essayed Ibrahim el Senussi, and which is recorded in my letter No. 1034/24 of the 8th of May, 1954, which I addressed to Mr. Bromley.

I consider that the Prime Minister's estimate is probably the more accurate of the two.

10. I am copying this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris and to the Head of the British Middle East Office.

I have, &c.

A. KIRKBRIDE.

JT 1941/13

No. 8

DISCUSSION BETWEEN HER MAJESTY'S AMBASSADOR AND SAYYID SADDIQ EL RIDHA ON THE PROBLEMS OF THE SUCCESSION TO THE THRONE OF LIBYA

Sir Alec Kirkbride to Mr. Bromley. (Received July 8)

(Secret)

Benghazi,

June 28, 1954.

On the 25th of June, 1954, I had an interesting talk with Sayyid Saddiq el Ridha, King Idris' nephew and the second in the succession to the throne of Libya, at his house in Barce.

2. Sayyid Saddiq el Ridha said that he had had a family conference a few days ago with the descendants of Ahmed Sherif el Senussi whom he described as "the only other members of the family who understood anything about statesmanship and honesty." The leading members of the branch being Sayyid Mohi ed Din (personality No. 197), Sayyid Bel Qasem (personality No. 207), the King's brother-in-law and Sayyid Ibrahim, the Libyan Minister in Egypt.

The occasion for the talk was the knowledge that Queen Fatima was pregnant again. Mohi ed Din and Bel Qasem pointed out that they had anticipated that the malign influence of Ibrahim Shelhi and his partner Sayyid Abdullah el Abed (personality No. 193) would come to an end with the decease of King Idris and Sayyid El Ridha (personality No. 181) took over; if, however, Queen Fatima bore

a son, it would mean a long period of a Regency during which Shelhi and company might maintain their hold or alternatively make mischief. They suggested that, if a son was born to King Idris, the two branches of the family should combine to stage a *coup d'Etat* on the King's death and to place Sayyid el Ridha on the throne or, if he declined, Sayyid Saddiq. Shelhi and his associates could then be dealt with finally.

Sayyid Saddiq claims to have refused to countenance any such scheme and to have induced those present, after a long argument, to agree to the following decisions:—

- (a) if King Idris had an heir, they would do everything possible to ensure that the latter succeeded to the throne when he came of age;
- (b) if there was no heir, the Ahmed Sherif branch would support Sayyid el Ridha and Sayyid Saddiq in eliminating Shelhi and his associates immediately after the death of King Idris.

An oath to this effect was taken by everyone present on the Koran. (As regards (a) the Sayyid pointed out that, if they rallied round the young heir, there was no reason why they should not oust Shelhi once King Idris' protection had been removed.)

3. Sayyid Saddiq added that Bel Qasem had thought previously of starting trouble amongst the discontented tribes and possibly securing Shelhi's assassination. Sayyid Saddiq had dissuaded him on the grounds that it was easier to start disorder than to stop it, specially when dealing with nomadic tribes, and that any movement of the kind might recoil disastrously on its authors.

N.B.—I had had reports from other sources indicating that Bel Qasem was thinking along those lines. He would have had plenty of scope for making trouble amongst the tribes as Shelhi is a protégé of the Braisat tribe, which he favours on all possible occasions, to the rage and envy of the others, particularly the Obeidat.

4. I told Sayyid Saddiq that he had acted wisely in counselling against any irregular or violent action and I asked him what developments he anticipated would take place in the future.

He expressed the opinion that nothing would change very much during the lifetime of King Idris and that one would just have to put up with Shelhi and the others. There would, however, be a difficult period when the King died. Tripolitania might well attempt to break up the federation and to form a separate State including the Fezzan. He believed that such an eventuality had been discussed between Saddiq Muntasser, the Wali of Tripolitania, and Abdel Jelil Seif el Nasr, the Deputy Wali of the Fezzan. As regards Cyrenaica, Shelhi might not accept elimination peacefully and start trouble through the tribes over which he had influence. Alternately the Egyptians might start something.

Sayyid Saddiq considered that it would be folly to try and force Tripolitania to remain in the federation; if persuasion failed to convince the Tripolitaniens to do so, they could go. Once Tripolitania had broken away, any form of union between Cyrenaica and the Fezzan became pointless and, if the Fezzan wanted to join Tripolitania, why object?

He could not, however, sit back and see chaos in Cyrenaica and, if internal troubles did start there after King Idris' death, he would take drastic action to restore the position. He was confident that he would secure plenty of support amongst the Cyrenaicans but the question he often asked himself was what the British would do. Could I tell him?

I replied that it was well nigh impossible to get Her Majesty's Government to say what they would do if a hypothetical set of circumstances arose. Nevertheless, I personally should be surprised if an appeal from the properly constituted authorities in Cyrenaica for assistance to deal with a situation which was beyond their ability to control was disregarded.

5. I reverted to his reference to the fact that Egypt might make trouble and I asked the Sayyid what he had in mind.

He pointed out that the Egyptian Government was making tremendous efforts to establish a predominating influence over Libya and that they were prepared to spend money for that purpose. The Bank Misr was advancing money without security to any civil servant who was recommended to it by the Egyptian Legation and certain members of the Senussi family had been given considerable commercial advantages from Egyptian sources.

There were few Libyans who were pro-Egyptian by conviction but so long as there was financial benefit in the background, the Egyptians would never lack clients. There had been a revulsion of feeling against the Egyptians in official circles of late, but this effect would decrease with time.

He felt that the Egyptians realised that, during the King's lifetime, they could do little more than establish themselves in influential positions against the day when the King was no longer here. What the Egyptian objective would then be, he did not feel competent to say, but he was sure that it would not be anything in the best interests of Libya.

6. Turning to the question of King Idris, the Sayyid said that while the King's bodily health seems to be neither better nor worse than before, he did feel that the King's strength of will is not what it had been. He could not believe that the King did not realise the future possibilities but he feared that the King was not interested in what happened after his decease. The King was not laying foundations but dealing with problems, as they arose, in the light of what was expedient at that moment.

I remarked that I had suffered of late from people who blamed me for not offering unsolicited advice to the King on matters which had no connection with British interests in Libya. It was often said that while British interests might not be involved directly, the ultimate result of present trends would be inimical to those interests and that I should, therefore, intervene now. To accept that sort of argument would be to make a mockery of Libya's independence and, moreover, the Libyans were really asking me to do something which they were not prepared to do themselves.

The Sayyid agreed and added that he too experienced the same trouble. People asked him to represent their grievances to the King but declined firmly to go and see the King themselves or even to accompany anyone who was speaking to the King on their behalf. He added that, nevertheless, a time would probably come when British intervention would be needed to prevent chaos prevailing.

7. I have recorded this talk at length because it is the first time that Sayyid Saddiq has spoken to me so frankly and because I share the opinion of most responsible Libyans that, when King Idris dies, Sayyid Saddiq is the one member of the Senussi family who could give the country a lead.

Two points of special interest emerged in this talk. Firstly, how little interest any of the members of the Senussi family, including the King, have in the future of Tripolitania. Secondly, the belief that ultimately it is Her Majesty's Government which will have to preserve the integrity of Cyrenaica (not Libya).

8. I am copying this letter to Cairo and to Fayid.

A. KIRKBRIDE.

JT 1022/3

No. 9

REPORT ON LIBYAN REACTIONS TO THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN SUEZ AGREEMENT

Sir Alec Kirkbride to Mr. Eden. (Received August 24)

(No. 84. Confidential) *Benghazi,*
Sir, *August 13, 1954.*

I have the honour to submit the following report on the reactions which I have observed in Libyan circles following the announcement that agreement had been reached between Her Majesty's Government and the Egyptian Government with regard to the Suez Canal base.

2. There is no doubt that the announcement caused pleasure and relief to the great majority of Libyans who felt that they would no longer have to suffer from the

conflicting pulls of the traditional friendship and the new alliance with Great Britain on the one side and the links of Islam, common membership of the Arab League and neighbourship with Egypt, on the other hand. As one of them said, "It was uncomfortable to have to live near two people who had quarrelled, when both of them are one's friends."

In addition, many Libyans believe that the Libyan Prime Minister, Mustapha ben Halim, played a part in bringing about the agreement in question and it also gives

them pleasure to feel that they have helped to reconcile two mutual friends and are playing a part in international affairs. The Libyan Prime Minister, incidentally, has done nothing to discourage this belief.

Two reactions which might have been expected, but which as far as I could observe were happily absent, were (a) glee at an Arab State having won its struggle with one of the Western Powers and (b) the suggestion that now British troops were to evacuate Egypt, they should also leave Libya. As regards the second point, it was realised that the evacuation of Egypt would lead to an increase in the numbers of the British forces in Libya.

3. The next part which the Libyan Government sees itself playing in the international field is that of bringing about a rapprochement between Turkey and Egypt. Indeed, the Libyan Prime Minister has already done some preliminary work to this end in both those countries.

The Libyans show a curious sentimental attachment to Turkey, which is not present in any of the other Arab countries, and they

maintain that Libya is held in special regard by the Turks as being the only Arab country which never rebelled against Turkey.

4. Lastly, I have noticed a growing tendency for Libyans to identify themselves instinctively with the "Hashmite bloc" in the Arab League.

This is probably due partly to the fact that King Idris himself is a descendant of Hashim and, as such, is fully entitled to style himself a Hashmite, and partly to the obvious desire of the Egyptians to dominate Libya. The anxiety of many Libyans to keep on friendly terms with Egypt, does not include readiness to accept that domination.

5. I am sending copies of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Amman, Ankara, Bagdad, Beirut, Cairo, Damascus, and Jeddah and to the Head of the British Middle East Office.

I have, &c.,

A. KIRKBRIDE.

JT 1015/77

No. 10

REPORT ON THE MURDER OF IBRAHIM SHELHI

Sir Alec Kirkbride to Mr. Eden. (Received October 28)

(No. 106. Secret)

Benghazi,

Sir,

October 19, 1954.

I have the honour to refer to my despatch No. 101 (1019/96/54) dated the 11th of October, 1954, on the subject of the murder of Ibrahim Shelhi.

2. Shortly after the murder, letters were received by the Libyan Prime Minister and other high officials threatening them with assassination should the murderer come to any harm.

The police could not trace the authors of these letters neither could they establish any complicity between the murderer and the group of youthful members of the Senussi family with whom he had been associated.

King Idris, however, decided to take administrative action against seven of these people who were notorious for their extreme political views and dissolute habits. He issued a decree ordering that they should be confined to their houses until arrangements were made for their removal to Hon in Tripolitania where they were to remain in forced residence until further notice.

The Libyan Prime Minister expressed to me doubts as to the legality of the King's action but he had not felt able to oppose the measure. He did not suppose that any of those named in the decree would challenge the power of the King to make such an order.

3. The names of the persons who are to be sent to Hon are as follows:—

- (a) Mustapha el Ridha, the King's nephew;
- (b) Ahmed Muhiedin, now at the Embassy in London;
- (c) Mustapha Muhiedin, brother of (b);
- (d) Ali Safi ed Din, son of Amir Safi ed Din;
- (e) Ridha Safi ed Din, brother of (d);
- (f) Bashir Ibrahim, son of the Libyan Ambassador to Cairo;
- (g) Kamil Ibrahim, brother of (f).

SECRET

4. The general public reaction to this development has been one of satisfaction, as the conduct of the younger members of the Senussi and their privileged position in business in Cyrenaica has given rise to a lot of criticism in the past.

The King appears to be considering further steps to restrict the privileges appertaining to members of the Royal Family to the members of his own family and that of the heir to the throne.

5. Busairi, the son of Ibrahim Shelhi, who was studying in England at the time of his father's death, has been appointed head of the Royal household.

6. I am copying this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Cairo and to the Head of the British Middle East Office, Fayid.

I have, &c.

A. KIRKBRIDE.

JT 1941/20

No. 11

ROYAL DECREE DEFINING EXACTLY THE COMPOSITION OF THE ROYAL FAMILY

Sir Alec Kirkbride to Sir Anthony Eden. (Received October 28)

(No. 114. Confidential)

Benghazi,

Sir,

October 22, 1954.

I have the honour to refer to my despatch No. 106 of the 19th of October on the subject of recent events in Cyrenaica.

2. On the 20th of October, 1954, King Idris issued a Royal Decree to the effect that the Royal Family consisted of the Queen, the King's children and the heir apparent: other members of the Senussi clan are not to be considered members of the Royal Family and all their privileges, titles and immunities are annulled.

3. Although no reason is given for this action on the King's part, it is known generally that he wishes to remedy the public dissatisfaction which has been evident, particularly in Cyrenaica, at the way certain members of the Senussi family have abused their positions in order to further their commercial enterprises, with special reference to Government contracts.

While there are good grounds for checking the activities of some members of the family, the present measure seems to be unnecessarily sweeping in its scope and the time of its issue, so soon after the murder of Ibrahim Shelhi which itself did a lot of harm to the good name of the Senussi, is not a happy choice.

4. I am copying this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Cairo and to the Head of the British Middle East Office, Fayid.

I have, &c.

A. KIRKBRIDE.

JT 1051/4

No. 12

CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE LIBYAN AMBASSADOR ON NOVEMBER 3, 1954

Sir Anthony Eden to Sir Alec Kirkbride (Libya)

(No. 136. Confidential) *Foreign Office,*
Sir, *November 3, 1954.*

The Libyan Ambassador asked to see me to-day, when he said he had been specifically charged by King Idris to hand me personally the enclosed message of congratulation and good wishes. The Ambassador went on to make a little speech

about Britain's part in recent world events, for which I thanked him.

2. I asked the Ambassador in return what was his latest news from Libya. He said that he had had none which he imagined was a good augury. I said that from what we had heard from you, the situation seemed quiet. No doubt the

assassination of Ibrahim Shelhi had caused a great shock, but there was no indication of anything in the nature of a public upheaval.

3. The Ambassador said that he understood that the King was at Tobruk, which was rather far away from the centre of events. He went on to say that there was always some anxiety about Libya in view of the loose nature of the federation and the vast distances which separated the centres of population. Moreover, His Excellency said that he still felt considerable concern at Egyptian propaganda in Libya, which was very active. He hoped that we were watching this, because it was not really friendly in character towards either Libya or ourselves. In answer to questions, the Ambassador said that he did not think the Egyptians had it in mind to try to assimilate Libya, but they would certainly like to have a considerable hand in running its affairs.

4. I said that if so this was unwise. Our relations with Egypt had fortunately been improved by our treaty, but there was no doubt that in the Sudan the Egyptians had interfered more than they should have done in the past. But this had not done them any good with the Sudanese. The same was likely to happen in Libya.

5. The Ambassador agreed, but repeated that we should be watchful, and pointed out that some of this propaganda was republican in character and was even aimed at the King. This he found disturbing, because Libya required above all peace and quiet in which it might make some economic progress.

6. I am sending copies of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Cairo and to the Head of the British Middle East Office at Fayid.

I am, &c.

ANTHONY EDEN.

Enclosure

*Embassy of the
United Kingdom of Libya,
London,
58 Princes Gate, S.W.7.*

P/1G/1904

1st November, 1954.

Sir,

I have the honour, in accordance with a cable that I have received from my Government, to express to Your Excellency most warm and sincere congratulations on behalf of The King my August Sovereign and the Government of the United Kingdom of Libya on the very special Honour that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II has bestowed upon you.

The untiring efforts for peace that have been carried on unceasingly by Your Excellency for so long and with such high success, and which have earned such a noble recognition, are appreciated not only by Her Majesty the Queen but also by my King and Country, who value most highly the friendship between our two countries and trust that Your Excellency will long continue in high office and success, to the lasting benefit of Your Excellency's own people and the furtherance and development of the cordial relations existing between our two countries.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

with the highest consideration,
Your Excellency's obedient Servant,
MAHMUD MUNTASSER.

The Right Honourable

Sir Anthony Eden, K.G.,
Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of
State for Foreign Affairs,
Foreign Office,
S.W.1.

JT 1052/10

No. 13

REVIEW OF LIBYAN AFFAIRS ON CONCLUSION OF MISSION

Sir Alec Kirkbride to Sir Anthony Eden. (Received December 7)

(No. 73. Confidential)

Tripoli,

Sir,

December 2, 1954.

On the eve of relinquishing my post as Her Majesty's Ambassador to Libya, I have the honour to submit a number of remarks

on the subject of the future relations between Great Britain and Libya.

2. At the present time, nearly three years after Libya achieved the status of an independent sovereign State, not only are

the official relations between Her Majesty's Government and the Government of Libya excellent, but the Libyan public generally accept Great Britain as an ally and a friend. For the last year, anti-British articles, which featured so frequently before, have been absent from the local press.

This state of affairs in any country which is a member of the Arab League is, in these days, remarkable. It is even more so in an Arab country in which British troops are stationed.

This popularity arises from a number of causes. In the first place, the Libyans, and particularly the Tripolitarians, fear an attempt on the part of Italy to re-establish herself in North Africa; the Cyrenaicans, on the other hand, are suspicious of Egyptian ambitions with regard to Cyrenaica; French designs on the Fezzan are also suspected. Secondly, the Libyans are convinced that Her Majesty's Government, having acknowledged Libya's independence, has tried, sincerely, to help them to stand on their own feet instead of endeavouring to retain some control, direct or otherwise, over the affairs of the country. Thirdly, the complete detachment of the British troops from any matters which do not concern them directly and the high standard of behaviour shown by the majority of the members of the forces offer a pleasant contrast to the many Libyans who remember the overbearing attitude of the late Italian garrison. Lastly, the Libyans, as a whole, realise and appreciate the economic benefits which the presence of the British forces bring to their country.

3. There is nothing permanent in any human relationship and friendship, unless cultivated, is inclined to cool as time passes. In Libya, the fears and suspicions referred to above may disappear gradually and be replaced by a desire for the removal from the country of foreign forces. There have been examples, not confined to Arab countries, of the growth of such a desire since the end of the second World War.

The most obvious means of avoiding anything which would give encouragement to such a development is strict adherence by ourselves to the terms of the Anglo-Libyan Treaty and Agreements. The Libyans still regard these arrangements as a satisfactory bargain which they concluded of their own free will and, so long as that feeling continues, we should have little trouble in that aspect of our relations with them.

I have already expressed, in other correspondence, my views on the desira-

bility of avoiding any wide or frequent amendments to the schedule of agreed lands which is an annex to the Anglo-Libyan Military Agreement. The principal virtue of the schedule is that both sides know their position with regard to lands and properties but that virtue will be lost if we get involved in a series of proposals for amendments in our interest and counter-proposals for amendments in Libya's interests.

4. Libya is a member of the Arab League but the Libyan Government has hitherto showed its determination to put Libya's interests first. Moreover, this country's situation on the periphery of the Arab world has enabled the Libyans to take a more detached view of the problems of that area than is possible with some of the other Arab States whose interests are affected more closely.

That Her Majesty's Government made no attempt to prevent Libya becoming a member of the Arab League is held to our credit and may account in part for the fact that the Libyan Government, while paying the usual lip service to Arab unity and the importance of the policies of Arab States being co-ordinated, still regards the British connexion as being their sheet anchor in times of trouble.

5. One of the most unsatisfactory features of the United Kingdom of Libya is its lack of unity.

It seems probable that the union of the three provinces which make up the kingdom will hold together during the lifetime of King Idris, but many responsible Libyans have expressed doubts as to whether the union will survive his decease. A large proportion of these people hope and expect that Her Majesty's Government will, if necessary, intervene in order to prevent the union breaking up.

Since the murder of Ibrahim Shelhi, King Idris has shown two paradoxical tendencies, the first to avoid business interviews, and the second to interfere more and more in the direction of affairs by means of Royal decrees of sometimes doubtful legality and by means of orders to his Ministers which are not always based upon a complete or well-informed knowledge of the problem with which he has to deal. If these tendencies continue they may have disruptive effects in the King's lifetime.

My own view is that the only member of the Senussi family who could carry Libya through the difficulties which may be expected when King Idris dies is his nephew, Saddiq el Ridha, who is now

second in the succession to the throne. Even he might need the support, moral and perhaps otherwise, of Her Majesty's Government in order to be successful. His father, Mohamed el Ridha, who is brother to King Idris and first in the succession, is not a strong character and would be unlikely to take a firm line in a crisis. I do not suggest that he should not succeed to the throne, but it would be necessary to induce him to follow his son's advice.

6. An important factor in Anglo-Libyan relations is the presence of a relatively large number of British officials employed by the Federal and Provincial authorities of Libya. Many of these are doing work the value of which is appreciated by the Libyans and, as is so often the case, little is heard about these people. There are others, however, whose relations with their employers have ultimately involved Her Majesty's Government in a certain amount of friction.

A great deal of trouble arose because many British officials who accepted contracts of employment from the Libyan Government felt that they were, in some way or another, connected with Her Majesty's Government and that the latter should intervene and cause the advice of the British officials to prevail in the event of a disagreement arising between them and their Libyan superiors. Such a proposition was, of course, unacceptable and in practice this mission only intervened on behalf of such British officials if there had been a breach of contract on the part of the Libyan authorities.

It must be admitted, on the other hand, that the inexperience and shortsightedness of some of the Ministers and Nazirs under whose direction those British officials have to work leads to much irritation and frustration on the part of the latter. Moreover, on the Libyan side, there is the avowed policy of ultimately replacing all foreign officials by Libyans.

The general picture is not altogether happy and there are grounds for consideration whether the interests of Great Britain would not be better served by a smaller number of British officials in Libyan employ consisting of people who could work happily in an Arab administration.

7. Great Britain's chief competitor for influence in Libya is Egypt, particularly in Cyrenaica, where Egyptian influence is more effective than in Tripolitania.

The Egyptians do not yet seem to have taken the Libyans at the latter's own valua-

tion and the fact that the former have been unable to conceal this has done them a lot of harm.

The Egyptian Government has, of course, the general desire and claim that Egypt should be the acknowledged leader of the Arab world, but, as regards Libya, the Egyptian Government seems to feel that they may assume the rôle of patrons and the purveyors of unsolicited advice.

At the outset of the era of Libyan independence, the Libyans showed an alarming tendency to accept the position which the Egyptians had ascribed to themselves and large numbers of Egyptian officials were imported, Egyptian laws became the models for the new Libyan codes and, generally, Libya seemed to be in some danger of becoming an Egyptian satellite.

By the beginning of 1954, however, the tide turned against Egypt and the policy of the Libyan authorities was to reduce the number of Egyptian officials in their employ. Libyan Ministers were also robuster in repelling attempts of the Egyptian Legation (now Embassy) or of visiting Egyptian personalities to interfere in the internal affairs of Libya.

This change was due to three principal factors: firstly, internal developments in Egypt which followed a trend unwelcome to most Libyans; secondly, the unsatisfactory conduct and political activities of the majority of the Egyptian officials in Libyan employ; and lastly, a considerable amount of oral propaganda against Egyptian penetration which was conducted from this embassy at the highest possible level.

King Idris is basically hostile to Egypt, although he is, as always, careful to veil his feelings. Nevertheless, he has done much to stem the Egyptian flood into Libya and it appears that the Egyptians themselves realise that they cannot achieve their objective of political domination over Libya during his lifetime. One gathers that their accepted policy is to penetrate the Libyan civil services as much as is possible so that, when King Idris's control disappears, they will be in a strong position to turn any developments to their own benefit.

Time is, however, working against the Egyptians because the need for Arab officials from outside Libya (and Egypt is the most convenient and well-supplied source) decreases as young Libyan civil servants obtain experience and as Libyan candidates for Government employment with adequate educational qualifications become available.

Since the signature of the agreement about the Suez Canal Base between Great Britain and Egypt, the Egyptian elements in Libya have been at pains to adopt a friendly attitude towards the British, but the fact remains that they are still our main competitors and that their objective is to dominate Libya, a thing which could only be achieved at the cost of our predominance.

8. Although the United States have established air bases in Libya and, though the Libyan American Technical Assistance Scheme have introduced in Libya a number of experts and technicians, America does not compete seriously with Great Britain for influence in Libya. This seems to be due to policy on the part of the United States Government and to the fact that, while the Libyans regard the United States as a source of unlimited assistance, financial and otherwise, to be exploited to the full, they consider the American policies followed in the Middle East to be inept and unpredictable.

9. France is fighting a losing battle in Libya. The policy followed by the French Government in North Africa and the obvious internal weaknesses shown in metropolitan France has produced an attitude on the part of the Libyans which is a combination of dislike, distrust and lack of respect. The ultimate aim of most Libyans

is probably gradually to eradicate French influence in the Fezzan. It is realised that this game must be played cautiously, lest Great Britain and the United States intervene and, in the meanwhile, the proposed treaty relations between Libya and France are being whittled down on the Libyan side to the inescapable minimum.

10. The attitude towards Italy differs in Tripolitania and Cyrenaica. In the former province there is surprisingly little enmity towards the Italians and the general intention seems to be to allow the Italian community to remain there providing safeguards are taken to prevent its achieving any form of political domination. In point of fact there is a movement of Italians back to Italy, principally agriculturists.

In Cyrenaica, however, the Italians are still hated and there is no prospect of any but a handful of technicians being permitted to re-establish themselves there.

The Italian lack of interest in the Fezzan seems to be reciprocated by the Fezzanese.

11. The British position in Libya is, therefore, favourable and, with a little care, it should be possible to maintain it so. The most important thing, in my view, is not to take it for granted.

I have, &c.

A. KIRKBRIDE.

JT 10317/44

No. 14

CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR ON DECEMBER 2, 1954

Situation in Libya

Sir Anthony Eden to Sir Gladwyn Jebb (Paris)

(No. 836. Confidential) *Foreign Office,*
Sir, December 2, 1954.

When the French Ambassador came to see me this afternoon he spoke about the situation in Libya. The French Government had been much disturbed about the position of their garrison in Fezzan. I said that I thought the French Government would be wise to try to strike a bargain about this. They clearly could not keep their 400 troops there forever and the present Libyan Government was as friendly as any we could hope to see. I would have thought that the French Government would have been wise to try to negotiate a date for the withdrawal of these 400 men and in return they might be able to obtain some facilities, if they really needed them.

The Ambassador said that he would report what I had said and added that he supposed that we did not want the French to give up too much of their rights, or it might affect our own position for the R.A.F. in Libya where we had certainly far-reaching facilities. I made no comment about this except to say that our arrangements were working well, under Treaty provisions.

2. I am sending copies of this despatch to Her Majesty's Representatives at Tripoli, Cairo and Washington, to the Permanent Representative to the United Kingdom Delegation in New York and also to the Head of the British Middle East Office at Fayid.

I am, &c.

ANTHONY EDEN.

JT 1015/87

No. 15

APPOINTMENT OF PRIME MINISTER TO BE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN ADDITION TO HIS OTHER FUNCTIONS

Mr. Ravensdale to Sir Anthony Eden. (Received December 15)

(No. 82)

Tripoli,

Sir,

December 9, 1954.

I have the honour to report that a Royal Decree was issued by His Majesty King Idris at Tobruk on the 3rd of December, 1954, appointing Essayed Mustapha Ben Halim to be Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Government of Libya in addition to his other appointments as Prime Minister and Minister of Communications.

2. The former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Essayad Abdel Salam Buseiri has been appointed Governor of the Province of Tripolitania.

3. I am sending a copy of this despatch to the British Middle East Office.

I have, &c.

T. C. RAVENSDALE.

JT 1648/3

No. 16

ACCOUNT OF THE TRIAL OF THE MURDERER OF IBRAHIM SHELHI

Mr. Stobart to Sir Anthony Eden. (Received December 29)

(No. 125. Confidential)

Benghazi,

Sir,

December 16, 1954.

With reference to my telegram No. 306 of December 11, I have the honour to outline in the following paragraphs the principal points of interest which emerged during the trial in Benghazi of Sherif bin Mohi al Din al Senussi, nephew of the Queen of Libya, for the murder on October 5, 1954, of Ibrahim Shelhi, Head of the Libyan Royal Household.

2. The trial opened in Benghazi on November 29 amidst elaborate security precautions designed to frustrate possible attempts to liberate the accused or possible demonstrations for or against him. No such demonstrations occurred, but many of these precautions such as the prohibition of sporting gatherings are still being enforced. The Cyrenaican Court of Appeal, sitting as a Criminal Court of first instance, was constituted as follows:—

Judge Cyril Good. A British Judge employed for many years in Iraq, now in the employment of the Cyrenaican authorities.

Judge Abdal Razeg Bishti. Judge of the Tripolitanian Courts.

Sheikh Khalil Kawafi. Judge of the Sharia (Muslim) Courts.

Two Cyrenaican Assessors.

3. As soon as the trial opened it became obvious that the Defence Counsel, a Cyrenaican named Salam Al Atrash, intended to do all he could to delay matters, possibly believing that his client's only hope of escaping the gallows would be an act of clemency in due course by the King as a result of outside interventions on his behalf. He therefore entered four objections designed to postpone a judgment. These were:—

- (a) That the Court was not properly constituted, in that Judge Bishti was a Tripolitanian and not a Cyrenaican Judge.
- (b) That the accused had been denied the services of the Egyptian Advocate whom he had desired to employ in his defence.
- (c) That the accused was not aged 22 as stated by the Prosecution but was below the age of 18 years and hence not subject to the jurisdiction of the Court, but to that of a special Juvenile Court.
- (d) That since the charge was a capital charge, a Mufti would be required to review any verdict of the Court. Since Cyrenaica possessed at that time no Mufti it was maintained that the Court could not proceed with the case in the meanwhile.

4. In support of objection (c) above, the Defence Counsel produced a document alleged to be an Egyptian birth certificate showing the accused to have been born on October 26, 1936, in Mersa Matruh, and alleged that the certificate, also issued in Mersa Matruh and produced in evidence by the Prosecution, referred to an elder brother of the accused whom he stated to have died in infancy. The Court declined to accept any of these objections, although it was observed that, possibly in view of objection (d), the Cyrenaican Government took immediate steps to appoint a Mufti.

5. As Ibrahim Shelhi had been assassinated in broad daylight in front of the Government Offices in Benghazi and in the presence of numerous witnesses, the case for the Prosecution was a simple one to present. The Libyan Prime Minister, Mustapha Ben Halim, was called by the Prosecution to give evidence concerning Shelhi's visit to him at his office immediately prior to the assassination. The Prosecution also called Lieutenant General Mahmoud Buqeteen, son-in-law of the murdered man and Commander of the Cyrenaican Defence (Police) Force. In his evidence he referred to an anonymous letter which he claimed to have received before the murder (but declined to produce), warning him that Sherif was laying plans to kill Shelhi. Other witnesses called by the Prosecution tended to confine themselves merely to describing the act of assassination itself. In evidence of the fact that the murder was premeditated, a Prosecution witness testified that as soon as the deed was done, Sherif said to the bystanders "Khalas, Khalas" ("It is finished"), suggesting that the intention to murder had been in his mind for some time. Furthermore, he had deliberately gained possession of his father's revolver, presumably for this specific purpose. The question of premeditation was perhaps the most important point which the Prosecution had to establish, because in Libyan Law a distinction is made between the punishments awarded for premeditated and for unpremeditated murder. The Court also took into consideration in this connection the evidence of past animosity between the two families and Ibrahim Shelhi's eldest son stated in evidence, that Kamil Al Senussi, a cousin of the accused and son of the former Libyan Ambassador in Egypt, had threatened to kill Shelhi as long ago as 1945.

6. The Defence Counsel faced by such a weight of first-hand evidence against his client, attempted again to adopt delaying tactics and to produce evidence which would serve in mitigation of a sentence which he must have known to be inevitable. The Defence Counsel therefore made an effort to prove that his client was mentally unstable. The only medical evidence which he could produce, however, was inconclusive. The Defence seemed seriously to have over-played their hand in this respect, when, doubtless according to a pre-arranged plan, the accused staged an attack upon his Counsel as the latter was leaving his prison cell. It is, however, by no means certain that the accused is not suffering from some form of schizophrenia. No doubt thinking that he might thereby strengthen the impression of insanity, the accused behaved truculently throughout his trial.

7. It was obvious, as the trial drew to its close that the Court would inevitably bring in a verdict of guilty, but before the verdict was announced it was passed for review in accordance with the legal procedure for capital cases, to the hastily appointed Mufti of Cyrenaica, Sheikh Abdul Hamid Deibani, a former member of the Libyan Supreme Court. The Sheikh returned the documents to the Court within twenty-four hours. His decision was brief and amounted to the Koranic maxim "Qatil yuqtil" ("He who kills, should be killed"). The verdict of guilty and the death sentence were announced by the Court on December 11. The Defence immediately lodged an appeal with the Federal Supreme Court.

8. One of the more striking features of the trial was the fact that the Court was presided over by a distinguished British Judge in the employ of the Cyrenaican Government, whose command of both written and spoken Arabic was so complete as to enable the proceedings to be conducted entirely in that language. Judge Good, who has vouchsafed to us in confidence a considerable amount of the information contained in the above paragraphs, has undoubtedly increased his prestige by his competent handling of the case.

9. The Defence Counsel has let it be known that he will now pull every possible string in order to produce outside intervention in favour of clemency. He apparently envisages intervention by other Arab Governments or by the Turkish Government although it is difficult to see how he can expect to be successful in arranging such intervention in a case of this nature.

10. Comment in Benghazi upon the verdict of the Court has been mainly moderate. The case was a clear one and there seems to have been little tendency to regard Sherif as a political martyr, the role in which he no doubt fancied himself when he committed the murder. There is talk, however, of the Ahmed Sherif faction of the Senussi family to which the murderer belongs, having threatened to kill Shelhi's eldest son should the execution take place. The majority of Cyrenaicans on the other hand, appear to adopt the attitude that the rift in the Senussi family, of which the assassination was a vivid manifestation, does not directly concern them and that it is in no way to their advantage to take sides in a dispute which can bring nothing but ill to both parties.

I have, &c.

P. D. STOBART.

P 1013/29 G

No. 17

FRANCO-LIBYAN RELATIONS AND THE FEZZAN

No. 273. INTEL

Foreign Office,

(Confidential)

December 17, 1954.

Since Libya became an independent State in 1951 the French Government have maintained a force of about 400 troops in the Fezzan, the southern province of Libya, in order to protect certain aerodromes which are of importance to French communications with Equatorial Africa. Recently they have told us that these troops fulfilled a useful purpose also in helping to prevent arms smuggling across the border into Tunisia but they have never supplied any detailed evidence that there is any such smuggling.

2. The status of the French troops has been regulated by an agreement which expires at the end of each year. The French Government want to conclude a more formal agreement with the Libyans on the lines of the Anglo-Libyan Treaty of 1953. Spasmodic negotiations have continued for some 18 months but little progress has been made owing to the reluctance of successive Libyan Governments to agree to the permanent stationing of French troops in the Fezzan. The matter came to a head on November 13, when, in reply to an earlier French draft of a convention to regulate the status of the French troops in the Fezzan, the Libyan Government informed the French Legation in Tripoli that they were not prepared to agree to any further prolongation of the temporary agreement after December 31. They would be ready, however, to negotiate a *bon voisinage* Agreement which would accord to the French certain transit rights in the Fezzan airfields. The French Government replied to this Note on November 22 stating that the requests for evacuation was unacceptable and that in default of any new agreement which might be concluded before December 31 French troops would simply stay where they were. Subsequently the Libyan Prime Minister told the Libyan Parliament that he would never negotiate any agreement with the French which would permit the stationing of French troops in the Fezzan.

3. Meanwhile the French Government had approached Her Majesty's Government with a request that we should use our good offices with the Libyan Government on their behalf. As the result of representations made by Her Majesty's Ambassador in Tripoli and of a conversation between Sir Ivone Kirkpatrick and the Libyan Ambassador in London, the French Government were informed on December 8 that the Libyan Government, although continuing to insist on the withdrawal of French troops, were prepared to grant the French a period of grace amounting to some months in which to carry out this evacuation, and were also prepared to negotiate with them a Treaty of Friendship as well as a *bon voisinage* Agreement.

4. In the course of our representations it was explained to the Libyans that to insist on an immediate withdrawal could only embarrass M. Mendès-France at an awkward moment: Her Majesty's Government were anxious to avoid this and also to avoid any worsening of the relations between two States with whom we were very friendly.

5. The French Government have now been informed that our representations constitute the limit of the action which we can usefully take with the Libyan Government, that the Libyans are determined that the French troops should quit the Fezzan within a month, and that the French must therefore seek the best accommodation they can with the Libyans.

6. The Libyan attitude to the presence of French troops in the Fezzan is quite understandable. Though it is true that the French Government has been paying a subvention of £166,000 a year to the Libyan Government, this is a very small amount in comparison with the sums paid by Her Majesty's Government and the United States Government and there is therefore little financial advantage to outweigh the dislike felt by the Libyans for French policy in North Africa, which has been increased during recent months by the measures which the French have been forced to take against the Tunisian terrorists. Moreover the French troops are not likely to afford any protection to the Libyans like the British forces or to bring money-bags into the country as do the Americans. They are merely a thorn in the flesh of national sentiment.

7. The above is for your own information only. If questioned about Her Majesty's Government's attitude towards Franco-Libyan differences, you should confine yourself to saying that as friends and allies of both Powers we hope that it will be possible for them to arrive at a mutually satisfactory compromise.

JT 10317/57

No. 18

**CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND
M. MENDES-FRANCE IN PARIS ON DECEMBER 19, 1954**

Sir Anthony Eden to Sir Gladwyn Jebb (Paris)

(No. 877. Confidential) *Foreign Office,
Sir, December 19, 1954.*

In the course of a conversation alone with M. Mendès-France in Paris this morning, he mentioned the position in Libya. He said it was quite impossible for the French to agree to the immediate withdrawal of their troops from that country. They did not want to stay there indefinitely, but for the moment it was essential to have a force there, although it was a small one, to control, as I understood it, the routes to the Sahara, and to watch over the arms smuggling which he alleged was going on from there into Tunisia. M. Mendès-France was inclined to imply that we had not been at all active in helping the French in this matter.

2. I said that the reverse was the truth, and that we had already made representations to the Libyans, and that I was quite sure that it would not be possible to get their agreement to a prolonged stay of this French force in their country. After all, both we and the Americans had made satisfactory arrangements for our needs. Was it not possible for the French to do the same?

3. M. Mendès-France replied that the greater part of French needs were now

covered by the existing agreement. I understood this to include arrangements for the use of certain aerodromes. He also agreed that in due course arrangements could probably be made for French representatives in civil clothes to carry out the other necessary tasks. But he must be given time.

4. After some discussion he went on to say that he was prepared to undertake to reach agreement with the Libyans on these matters within six months. But he could not at this moment fix a date when the French would be able to withdraw their 400 troops. He said that he hoped we would be able to support the French in persuading the Libyans to agree to these negotiations.

5. I am asking Her Majesty's Ambassador in Paris to obtain from the Quai d'Orsay a written memorandum of the help that they want us to give, and of the actual proposal they want us to make.

6. I am sending copies of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassadors in Cairo, Washington and Tripoli and to the Head of the British Middle East Office, Nicosia.

I am, &c.

ANTHONY EDEN.

JT 1015/91

No. 19

COMPOSITION OF NEW LIBYAN GOVERNMENT

Mr. Clinton-Thomas to Sir Anthony Eden. (Received December 21)

(No. 87. Confidential)

*Libya,**December 20, 1954.*

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to my despatch No. 82 dated the 9th of December reporting the issue of a Royal Decree appointing Essayed Ben Halim as Libyan Minister of Foreign Affairs in addition to his other appointments as Prime Minister and Minister of Communications.

2. By a Royal Decree dated the 19th of December, 1954, the Libyan Cabinet has now been reconstituted as follows:—

Essayed Mustapha Ben Halim. (Libyan Personality No. 88), Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Essayed Ibrahim Ben Shaaban. (No. 203), Minister of Defence.

Essayed Ali Nureddin al Aneizi. (No. 20), Minister of Finance.

Essayed Abdel Rahman Qalhud. (No. 176), Minister of Justice.

Essayed Mustapha Serrai. (No. 200), Minister of Education.

Essayed Mohammed Ben Othman. (No. 173), Minister of Health.

Essayed Ali Sahli. (No. 187), Minister of Communications.

Essayed Salem el Kadi. (No. 111), Minister of National Economy.

3. The proportional distribution of Cabinet seats is as it originally was in the Muntasser Government, viz., four Tripolitarians, three Cyrenaicans and one Fezzanese, and this may to some extent serve to placate the Tripolitarians who have tended, since there has been a Cyrenaican in the premiership, to resent the fact that Cyrenaicans have held most of the important posts in the Federal Cabinet.

4. The inclusion of Essayed Salem el Kadi, the former Tripolitanian Nazir of Agriculture, who was dismissed by Essayed Sadiq Muntasser (No. 159) soon after the latter became Governor of Tripolitania, rather suggests that the Federal Government are making a bid to gain support amongst those Tripolitanian elements who were alienated by the elimination from the Governorship of Essayed Fadel Ben Zikri in favour of Essayed Saddiq Muntasser. This is a prudent move at a moment when, in the opinion of some observers, the present Federal Government seems to be girding itself to the task of strengthening its own authority *vis-à-vis* the provincial administrations.

5. I am sending a copy of this despatch to the British Middle East Office (Nicosia).

I have, &c.

R. A. CLINTON-THOMAS.

(*Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires.*)

APPENDIX

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

JT 1012/1

No. 20

LEADING PERSONALITIES IN LIBYA

Sir Alec Kirkbride to Library. (Received August 18)

(No. 10119/3/54)
Confidential

*Benghazi,
August 11, 1954.*

Enclosure

Leading Personalities in Libya

1. Abd el Hamid el Abbar.
2. Mailud Abdallah.
3. Khalifa Abdelqader.
4. Abdallah Ben Abdulsamad.
5. Hamid el Abeidi.
6. Saad al Abeidi.
7. Ali Ben Mohammed Agab.
8. Bakku bu Agheila.
9. Abu Bakr Ahmad.
10. Mahdi Ben Ahmed.
11. Abdul Rahman Ajeili.
12. Mustafa Ajeili.
13. Mohammed Abu el Assad el Alem.
14. Taher Bin Mohamed Al Alem.
15. Abdul Qader el Allam.
16. Ismail Ben Ameer.
17. Mustafa Ben Ameer.
18. Abdurazzak el Amir.
19. Fadel Fawzi el Amir.
20. Ali Nur el din el Aneizi.
21. Said Al Arabi.
22. Francesco Archetti.
23. Mabruk Ben Arebi.
24. Muftah Ben Ahmed Areigib.
25. Khalil el Aridha.
26. Munir Al Arussi.
27. Taher el Asbali.
28. Mustafa Omar el Asfiar.
29. Keilani el Atewish.
30. Abdullah Bil Aun.
31. Taher Azhari.
32. Mustafa Aziz.
33. Munir Awad Massaud el Baaba.
34. Taher Abdul Gader el Badawi.
35. Mustafa Badi.
36. Abdulqader el Badri.
37. Mahmoud al Bahbah.
38. Taher Bakir.
39. Khalil Bannani.
40. Suleiman Abu el Rabee el Barouni.
41. Tewfik Nuri el Barqawi.
42. Amur el Baruni.
43. Mustafa Beayou.
44. Taya el Bijou.
45. Abdel Razzak el Taher Bishti.
46. Mahmoud el Bishti.
47. Al Mahdi Braish.
48. Muhammad Abu el Qader bu Breidan.
49. Abdulsalaam Bseikry.
50. Saleh Buesir.
51. Abdusalam al Busairi.
52. Wahbi el Buri.
53. Munir Burshan.
54. Bubaker Busahmein.
55. Dr. Giuseppe Cassar.
56. Dr. Domenico Prosdocimo Cattiti.
57. Conte Giorgio della Croce.
58. Suleiman Dahan.
59. Muhammad bu Dajaja.
60. Ali Mohammed Deeb.
61. Abd el Hamid el Deibani.
62. Awni Dejani.
63. Bu Bakr bu Dhan.
64. Keilani Dreiret.
65. Abdul Rahman Duqduq.
66. Massoud Ben Eissa.
67. Yahiya Ben Messaud Ben Eissa.
68. Kamal Farhat.
69. Mahmoud Farhat.
70. Nejmeddin Farhat.
71. Ali Abul Qassim Fellag.
72. Mohueddin el Fikini.
73. Dr. Aurelio Finzi.
74. Hussein el Fiqi.
75. Gehan Sidki Ben Ahmed Fortia.
76. Abdel Jawad el Freitas.
77. Mohamed Tewfik el Gariani.
78. Ali Gatrun.
79. Anwar Sulieman Ben Gharsah.
80. Ahmed el Alem Ghirza.
81. Mohammed Shara Ghirza.
82. Mohammed Ben Ali Gialguem.
83. Ibrahim Gritli.
84. Ramadan el Gritli.
85. Mahmoud bu Guetin.
86. Zacchino Habib.
87. Mahdi ben Mohamed Haggiagi.
88. Mustafa Ahmed Ben Halim.
89. Senussi Ben Hameda.
90. Mohammed Kamel el Hammali.
91. Beshir Ben Hamuda Ben Hamza.
92. Mohammed al Haneish.
93. Mohammed Ibrahim el Hangari.
94. Ahmed el Hassairi.
95. Ahmed el Fiqih Hassan.
96. Ali Fiqih Hassan.
97. Mustafa Sadiq Hassan.
98. Salem Ben Hassan.
99. Mahmoud Bu Hidma.
100. Faiz el Iorissi.
101. Abu Bakr el Ismirli.
102. Omran al Jadra.
103. Ali Salih Jaouda, M.B.E.
104. Jarbua Abdul Jelil.
105. Saad Bu Jeralla.
106. Ali Assad Jerbi.
107. Suleiman Sami el Jerbi.
108. Fuad Kaabazi.
109. Dr. Kher El-Din Kaddara.
110. Mansour Kaddara.

111. Salem el Kadi.
112. Ali Karamanli.
113. Taher Karamanli.
114. Yussef Muhammad Ben Katu.
115. Fathi Mansur el Kekhia.
116. Omar Mansur Pasha el Kekhia
117. Ramadan el Kekhia.
118. Rashid Mansur el Kekhia.
119. Khalifa Khalid.
120. Mohamed Khalil.
121. Dr. Ali Yussef Kherbish.
122. Saleh Kherbish.
123. Abdel Majid Koobar.
124. Rassem Koobar.
125. Mohamed el Kreishi.
126. Al Sunni Al Lali.
127. Senussi Lateiwish.
128. Salem Latrash.
129. Awad Lenghi.
130. Yussef Khalifa Lenghi.
131. Saleh Ben Ammar Letaif.
132. Nicolo Liotti.
133. Dr. Cielia Lollini.
134. Abdulla Ben Maatugh.
135. Yassin el Mabri.
136. Mohammed Tewfik el Mabruk.
137. Mahmud el Arabi el Magdud.
138. Mohammed Ibrahim el Maiet.
139. Hussein Abdel Malek.
140. Mohammed el Mansouri.
141. Dr. Giacomo Marchino.
142. Yahya Ben Massaud.
143. Hussein Yussef bu Mazeq.
144. Beshir Megherby.
145. Ahmed Rafik el Mehdawi.
146. El Hadi Mishergi.
147. Yusef el Mishergi.
148. Ali Missallati.
149. Hadi el Missallati.
150. Mahmoud Missallati.
151. Mustafa Mizran.
152. Mansour Bin Mohamed.
153. Sharif Ali Ben Mohammed.
154. Ahmed Muhammad Mukhtar.
155. Abdulqader Muntasser.
156. Mahmoud Ben Ahmed Muntasser.
157. Mukhtar Ahmed Hassan Muntasser.
158. Mustafa Muntasser.
159. Saddiq el Muntasser.
160. Salem Muntasser.
161. Salem Murayeid.
162. Bubaker Abu Naamah.
163. Ali Ben Bubaker Na'as.
164. Abdel Gelil Seif el Nasr.
165. Mohamed Seif el Nasr.
166. Mohamed Seif el Nasr.
167. Omar Seif el Nasr.
168. Salem Seif el Nasr.
169. Khalil Nassouf.
170. Mohammed Ben Omar.
171. Shams el Deen Arabi Ben Omran.
172. Nur El Din Ben Saalem Orfelli.
173. Mohammed Ben Otman.
174. Wanis el Qadafi.
175. Ali Sidqi Abdul Qader.
176. Abdulrahman al Qalhud.
177. Khalil Omar el Qallal.
178. Saleh Ben Rabha.
179. Muhammad Bu Rahayem.
180. Ali Mukhtar Ben Rajeb.
181. Sayed Saddiq el Rida.
182. Mohamed Riffaat.
183. Sayed Maraajah Al Rukh.
184. Qadafi Saad.
185. Beshir El Saadawi.
186. Abdallah Sahairi.
187. Ali Sahli.
188. Suleiman Ben Said.
189. Ali Ben Saleem.
190. Ali Ben Salem.
191. Nasr Ben Salem.
192. Muhammad Senussi el Saqisli.
193. Abdullah Abid el Senussi.
194. Nabil Ibrahim bin Ahmed al Sharif el Senussi.
195. King of Libya, Mohammed Idris el Mahdi el Senussi.
196. Amir Mohammed Safi el Din Ahmed Sherif el Senussi.
197. Muhy el Din Ahmed el Sherif el Senussi.
198. Amir el Rida el Mahdi el Senussi.
199. Muhammad Galheen Serghiwa.
200. Mustapha Serraj.
201. Mohamed Al Shaab.
202. Ali Ben Shaaban.
203. Ibrahim Ben Shaaban.
204. Abdel Razeq Shaglouf.
205. Mohammed Shaied.
206. Abdulla el Shareef.
207. Sayed Abu el Qasim Ahmed Sherif.
208. Taher el Ahmed Shareef.
209. Salem Ben Mohamed Sharmit.
210. Ibrahim Shelhi.
211. Ahmed Swehli el Shetewi.
212. Mansur Abu Shideiq.
213. Mahmoud bu Shreda.
214. Hamid Ibrahim el Shweihdi.
215. Mohamed Rajeb el Sokni.
216. Conte Comm. Ulderico Sottocasa.
217. Ahmed Aon Souf.
218. Ahmed Es Sunni.
219. Mubarek el Susi.
220. Hamuda Ben Taher.
221. Hussein Taher.
222. Ali Tamer.
223. Renato Tciuba.
224. Bekir Tresh.
225. Mario Viscardi.
226. Buseif Yassin.
227. Taher el Yazgi.
228. Sadeq Ben Zaraa.
229. Ahmed Zarem.
230. Khalifa Ben Abdussalam Zentani.
231. Abdul Aziz Zigallai.
232. Fadel Ben Zikri.
233. Suleiman Zunni.

Leading Personalities in Libya

1. Abd el Hamid el Abbar (Cyrenaica)

Senior Sheikh of the important Awaghir Sdeidi tribe. Born 1885 at Soluk but now lives at Sidi Mahuis. Firm supporter of the Senussi Amirate. One of the principal leaders of the resistance to the Italian Administration. Member of the Cyrenaican Delegation to Lake Success in April 1949. A member of the National Congress Committee until its disbandment in March 1950, and subsequently a member of the Amir's interim Advisory Council. Has agricultural interests in the El Abiar area and considerable tribal influence. An antagonist of Omar Mansur Pasha (No. 116). Appointed Senator on 18th March, 1952.

Decoration—King's Medal for Freedom.

2. Mailud Abdallah (Cyrenaica)

Member of the Dorsa tribe. Senussi loyalist. Has tribal support and considerable influence. Elected Deputy for Al Marj Constituency (Barce) on 19th February, 1952.

3. Khalifa Abdelqader (Cyrenaica)

Former postmaster in Benghazi. Young, reasonable, progressive and a quiet type. Elected Deputy for Al Beida Constituency (Beida Littoria) on 19th February, 1952.

4. Abdallah Ben Abdulsamad (Tripolitania)

Mayor of Cussabat. Elected Deputy for Cussabat Constituency on 19th February, 1952.

5. Hamid el Abeidi (Cyrenaica)

Born Derna about 1915. Son of the late Ali Pasha el Abeidi. Attended local schools and then went to Egypt to study at the Al Azhar University. Joined the Libyan Arab Force in 1941 and entered Government service in 1945. Was Naib Mudir of Derna in 1945 and promoted as Mayor of Barce in 1947. From Barce he was again promoted to be Qaimaqam of Tobruk in 1949. Posted as Naib-Mutassarif to Kufra in November 1950 as a disciplinary measure after he had attempted to stir up trouble among the Abeidat Sheikhs—the tribe being, he considered, inadequately represented on the Cyrenaican delegation to the Libyan Constituent Assembly. He refused to accept this posting and resigned from the Cyrenaican Civil Service.

He was an unsuccessful candidate for the Derna constituency in the elections for the Chamber of Deputies on February 19, 1952, when he was defeated by Mohamed Abu el Qader bu Breidan (No. 48). Early in 1953 he was reinstated in the Cyrenaican Civil Service and was appointed Naib-Mutassarif at Agedabia. Appointed Nazir of Health, Cyrenaica, on December 26, 1953. Appointed Nazir of Education, June 1954, having relinquished the appointment of Nazir of Health.

Intelligent and capable but inclined to be indolent. Respected by rural elements on account of his family. A follower of the National Association in Derna.

6. Saad al Abeidi (Cyrenaica)

Born about 1897. Was formerly Mutassarif of the Jebel and resents the fact that that district has been divided into two, of which he retains the western half administered from Barce.

7. Ali Ben Mohammed Agab (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1912. Graduate of Al Azhar University in Cairo. Was Qadi of Agelat until December 1947, when he was placed on leave without pay. August 1947, authorised to practise as an advocate in the British Military Court, Tripolitania. In May 1948 he was appointed Qadi of Zliten.

He was a staunch supporter of the Fiqih Hassan brothers until early 1949 when he lost faith in their political activities. In August 1950 he was reported to have joined the newly formed Libyan Socialist Party which then disseminated Communist propaganda.

8. Bakku Bu Agheila (Cyrenaica)

Born 1898 in Battisti, where he still lives. Is Mustashar of the Hasa tribe. Bedouin, proud of his tribe and position. Poorly educated; comfortably off financially, inclined to use his position and influence for personal or tribal ends. A supporter of the Senussis. Member of the Cyrenaican National Congress until its dissolution in 1950, and subsequently of the Amir's Interim Advisory Committee.

9. Abu Bakr Ahmad (Fezzan)

Appointed to the Senate on 18th March, 1952. Elected House Observer on 8th May, 1952. Very close to the French Legation.

10. Mahdi Ben Ahmed (Fezzan)

Appointed Nazir of Public Health, Education and Public Works for the Fezzan on 29th March, 1951. Relieved of his post as Nazir 28th January, 1954.

11. Abdul Rahman Ajeili (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli about 1920. Educated in Tripoli Secondary School. Knows Arabic, Italian, English and French. Accountant.

1946, appointed interpreter at the British Military Court of Tripoli. April 1949, elected executive member of the Youth Congress. Employed with the Pakistani delegation to the United Nations Council as interpreter in 1950.

Intelligent but not ambitious. Not politically-minded.

12. Mustafa Ajeili (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1911. Studied in Tripoli Secondary School and at Naples College for Oriental Studies. After the British occupation he was appointed Inspector of Police but was expelled for having fomented anti-Jewish feeling in November 1945.

February 1946, suspected of being interested in communism. Was a member of the Nationalist Party. After a visit to Italy in 1948 he was appointed teacher in a local Italian school. In the same year a bomb was thrown at his house by unknown people.

December 1948, nominated an Assessor of the Italian Courts. Left 1950 for Somaliland as a teacher of Arabic in the Italian Educational Department. Returned to Tripoli in 1951.

He is strongly pro-Italian and has been active in spreading pro-Italian propaganda.

13. Mohammed Abu el Assad el Alem (Tripolitania)

Born Suk el Juma about 1880. Educated in Tripoli Qoranic schools and at El Azhar in Cairo.

Mufti of Libya since 1921. This appointment was confirmed by Royal Decree on 3rd January, 1952.

Co-operated with the Italian Administration in Libya only in so far as he could do so without harming the interests of his countrymen. Member of the Chief Administrator's Arab Advisory Council formed in 1943. Member of the Arab Jewish Reconciliation Committee formed after disturbances in November 1945. He was one of the signatories of the Arab Advisory Council's resolution calling for a British trusteeship in 1946. Member of the United National Front which was formed the same year.

In 1947 he headed the Tripolitanian delegation to Cyrenaica to negotiate for a united Libya under the Senussi Amirate. In September 1948 he quarrelled with Salem Bey Muntasser (No. 160), the president of the United National Front, over the latter's pro-Italian attitude and, with Beshir Saadawi (No. 185), made the former resign.

In May 1949 he personally led the Tripoli demonstrations against the Bevin-Sforza Plan and was instrumental in preventing the outbreak of trouble.

In April 1950 he was invited to become a member of the Chief Administrator's Administrative Council but declined for reasons of old age and the possible conflict of the council's work with his religious duties.

In July 1950 he was appointed member of the United Nations Committee of twenty-one and in August was elected president of the committee. In October 1950 he was charged by members of this committee to select the twenty Tripolitanian members for the Libyan National Assembly.

Although originally he was a strong supporter of Beshir Saadawi, the exiled leader of the dissolved National Congress Party, he ceased to support him in 1950.

As the senior and oldest member of the Libyan National Assembly he was appointed chairman of the Assembly on 25th November, 1950.

Headed a delegation of three of the Libyan National Assembly to Cairo to contact member States of the Arab League to place the Libyan case in its proper perspective before the Political Committee of the Arab League. The delegation submitted its case to the Political Committee on 27th January, 1951, and returned from Cairo on 8th February. Since which he has taken no active part in local politics and leads a retired life.

He is shrewd, a true Moslem and patriot at heart. He is influential but has a considerable number of enemies. He has always shown a favourable attitude towards us.

14. Taher Bin Mohammed Al Alem (Fezzan)

Elected (unopposed) Deputy for Chati (nomadic) Constituency in the Fezzan, 19th February, 1952. Appointed Minister of Health in the Saqisli Government on 17th February, 1954. Went out of office when the Government resigned on 8th April, 1954.

15. Abdul Qader el Allam (Cyrenaica)

Born 1918 in Derna. Home still in Derna district though at present living in Barce. Member of the Abeidat Mzein tribe. Successful and varied career in the Italian Administration, rising from a clerk in an Italian Military Bakery (1936) to a Secretary for Arab Affairs (1940).

From 1942-44 he was detained in a prisoner-of-war camp in Egypt, because of previous close Italian connexions. In 1945 he was employed by the Public Information Officer. From 1946-48 he was Secretary of the Berka Destitutes Home. In 1948 he was appointed Mudir of Qubba, in 1949 Assistant Controller of Personnel and Establishments, B.A.; in February 1950 Director of Press Services, Cyrenaican Government; in March 1950 Minister of Agriculture and Forests.

In June 1951 he showed himself opposed to any possible domination of Libyan Government by Tripolitanian elements and attempted, without success, to gain support for a scheme to modify the plan for Libyan unity accordingly.

14th May, 1952, relieved of his post as Nazir of Agriculture. His dismissal indisposed the powerful Abeidat tribe. 1953-54 became restless and more and more critical of the Senussi family as well as the Shelhi clique.

Of Bedouin origin, he is an intelligent and cultured Arab with influence among sections of the Abeidat tribe. His past record of co-operating with the Italians gained him an unenviable notoriety. A protégé of Omar Mansur Pasha he is ostensibly pro-British and loyal to the Senussis, but it is probable that his political views are mainly governed by personal ambition. He speaks fluent English.

16. Ismail Ben Ameen (Tripolitania)

Born Misurata 1907. Educated in Koranic schools, Tripolitania, and later in Italian schools.

Active in commerce. Elected president of the Misurata Wholesale Trade Company 1943. Member of the Ahliya Court and Municipal Council. Chairman of the Tripolitanian Chamber of Commerce. Member of the executive committee of the National Congress Party. Head of the Tripoli Chamber of Commerce delegation to the Bari Fair, September 1953.

Elected Deputy for Misurata (Zaviet Mahjub) Constituency on 19th February, 1952. Appointed Minister of State without Portfolio in the Saqisli Government on 17th February, 1954. Went out of office when the Government resigned on 8th April, 1954, and continued as chairman of the Chamber

of Commerce. His appointment as Minister of State caused a certain amount of criticism.

17. Mustafa Ben Amer (Cyrenaica)

Born 1907 in Benghazi. Belongs to the Gzir tribe. Studied for many years at the El Azhar University in Cairo. Returned to Benghazi in 1944 and was employed in the Education Department of the British Administration. Resigned in 1947 in order to run a newspaper, *El Watan*. Became president of the National Club in 1948, and took part in organising assistance to the Egyptian cause against Israel in 1948-49. Elected to the Assembly of Representatives in June 1950 as one of the members for Benghazi town.

Sentenced to three years' imprisonment for participating in an illegal demonstration on 8th July, 1951. This prevented his being a candidate in the 1952 general elections for the Federal Libyan Parliament. Released on 6th May, 1952, as a result of the remission of half of the sentence imposed on him in July 1951. His imprisonment has enhanced his prestige in the eyes of his followers in the former National Association.

He sent a telegram to the Libyan Prime Minister in London in June 1953 asking him not to bind the country by a treaty with Britain and conducted violent anti-treaty campaign.

An ardent Libyan nationalist and something of a xenophobe.

18. Abdurazzak el Amir (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli. Brother of Fadel Fawzi el Amir.

Public writer. Elected candidate for the urban district of Tripoli Province on March 29, 1953, and appointed Secretary of the Tripolitanian Legislative Assembly. Following the dissolution of the Assembly in January 1954, he did not stand in the new elections.

19. Fadel Fawzi el Amir (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli about 1916. One of the signatories to the petition of January 13, 1946, protesting against the Arab Advisory Council's resolution asking for a British Mandate. Has held the posts of Secretary of the Administrative Council, Secretary of the Federal Council of Ministers and Director of the Interior Tripolitania. On March 28, 1953, he was appointed Nazir of Interior in the Tripolitania Legislative Council. Dismissed from his post on June 16, 1953, following the dismissal of the Wali of Tripolitania, Fadel ben Zikri, who is a close friend of his. Appointed Liaison Officer with the Shell Agency in Tripolitania 1953. He is in violent opposition to Saddiq Muntasser, the Governor of Tripolitania, because the latter tried to sabotage his chances of further employment.

He is honest, straightforward and conscientious and has a strong sense of duty.

Decorations: Order of the Nile, 3rd Class.

20. Ali Nur el Din el Aneizi (Cyrenaica)

Born in Benghazi, 1904. Belongs to the Awagir-Baragtha tribe. Commenced his education at Turkish and Italian schools in Benghazi and then spent a number of years studying in Italy, finally obtaining the degree of Doctor of Economic and Commercial Science in 1930, having specialised in colonial affairs. Returned to Benghazi in 1931 and entered the service of the Italian Government, being appointed in 1935 "Consigliere Amministratore" of the Awqaf. He held this post until 1941, when he retreated to Egypt with the British. Returned to Benghazi in 1944 and was appointed adviser to the Supplies Department of the British Military Administration. In 1945 he accepted a post in press section of the Arab League. He also became a

member of the Libyan Liberation Committee, and was one of the delegation which this committee sent to Lake Success in the spring of 1949.

During the six years he spent with the Arab League he kept in close contact with Libyan officials and affairs, entertaining and arranging introductions for notables and politicians when they visited Cairo. In February 1951, shortly after he had an audience with the King at Benghazi, he resigned from his post with the Arab League, explaining publicly that his reason for doing so was the League's opposition to federation in Libya, and returned with his family to Benghazi. He was one of the Libyan representatives on the committee set up to deal with the question of Libyan currency.

On February 19, 1952, he was elected Deputy for Soluq.

He was selected as the first Libyan Minister to the Court of St. James but declined the appointment on the grounds that his tribe objected to his resigning his seat as a Deputy. The real reason was that he was involved in an incident at an official ceremony on Independence Day, 1952, which openly reflected on his judgment and regard for etiquette.

On September 20, 1953, he was appointed by the King, probably on the recommendation of Sayed Abdullah Abid el Senussi (No. 193) as Minister of Finance.

When Muntasser's resignation was accepted, he retained the same portfolio in both the Saqisli and the Halim Governments which followed. He accompanied the Prime Minister to America in July 1954 for the Libyan-American financial talks.

He is a brother-in-law of Ali Bey Jerbi (No. 106).
Decorations: Order of Independence, 1st Class.

21. Said Al Arabi (Tripolitania)

Member of the National Congress Party, now dissolved. Elected Deputy for Miami (Furnaj) Constituency in 19th February, 1952, elections. His political affiliations changed in favour of the Muntasser Government after the elections. Voted against the Anglo-Libyan Treaty.

22. Francisco Archetti (Tripolitania)

Italian lawyer. During World War II suspected of Left-wing tendencies. Close associate of Errico Cibelli. 1946, member of the Italian Consultative Committee. November 1951, reported to have taken over the direction of Communist activities in Tripolitania following the deportation of Dr. Cibelli. April 1952, reported to be meeting with other Communists in an endeavour to reorganise the Communist cell in Tripoli.

23. Mabruk Ben Arebi (Fezzan)

Appointed to the Senate on 18th March, 1952.

24. Muftah Ben Ahmed Areigib (Tripolitania)

Born 10th March, 1905, at Sorman. 1943, appointed Mudir of Sorman. Resigned in May 1947.

Appointed member of the Disciplinary Commission for Arab Officials. March 1948, elected a member of the Chamber of Commerce Council. Member of the Tripoli Farmers' Association. March 1949, assessor of the Board of Trade.

Member of the National Congress Party. In 1951, like many others, he disagreed with Beshir Saadawi's policy and therefore became anti-Congress.

Member of the Advisory Council to the Provincial Commissioner, Tripoli. March 1951, appointed to the Libyan Constituent Assembly to fill a vacancy caused by another member's resignation. Elected Deputy for Sorman Constituency on 19th February, 1952.

Intelligent and energetic. Very popular. Has influence over the people of his Mudiria. Strongly pro-British.

25. Khalil el Aridha (Cyrenaica)

Born about 1877. Has had virtually no education. Although he is one of the leading Sheikhs of the Barassa-Hussein tribe, he is not one of the most prominent; and has not had a distinguished career either with his tribe or with the Government. He has served at times as honorary member of the Ahliya Courts in Beida and was recently appointed one of the two vice-presidents of the Beida Municipal Council.

He is a Senussi loyalist.

It is possible that his appointment to the Senate on 18th March, 1952, has been made as a gesture to propitiate the Barassa-Hussein for the failure of their candidate to secure election to the Lower House of the Federal Parliament.

26. Munir Al Arussi (Tripolitania)

Born in 1895. Belongs to the Cabila Absciat. Leading notable and large landowner. Prior to the war was established in Tripoli as a cereal merchant. 1943, moved to Zavia and formed a society for the distribution of rationed commodities.

Elected Deputy for Zavia Hara Constituency on 19th February, 1952. Abstained from voting on the Anglo-Libyan Treaty in the Chamber of Deputies.

Not altogether popular but his money has won him support.

27. Taher el Asbali (Cyrenaica)

Born about 1885. Lives in Barce. A leading Sheikh of the Orfa Salatna tribe. Imprisoned by the Italians, he later went into exile. Has been an honorary adviser on tribal affairs to the Administration since 1943.

Argumentative, but sound at heart and a supporter of the Senussis. Increasing years now make him not quite so clear as he tries to appear.

28. Mustafa Omar el Asfiar (Cyrenaica)

Born 1902 in Soluq. At present living in Agedabia, but normal place of residence is Soluq. A leading Sheikh of the important Awagir tribe, the second largest tribe in Cyrenaica. Member of a family who combined a leading tribal position with an administrative record under the Turkish and Italian Governments.

He entered Government service in 1926 and was made Mudir in 1941. Served in this capacity in Maqrun, Ghemines and Giardina until 1949 when he was made Qaimaqam of Agedabia district. In April 1950 he became Naib-Mutassarif of Agedabia. In the spring of 1953 he was appointed Naib-Mutassarif of Tobruk but has not yet taken up his appointment owing to ill-health.

Highly esteemed by the Ibrahim and Mtewa sections of the Awagir. Has a reputation for treachery and double dealing.

29. Keilani el Atewish (Cyrenaica)

Born in 1915. Lives in Agedabia and is Mustashar of the Magharba tribe. Son of Saleh Pasha el Atewish who was Governor of Agedabia and Sirtica in Turkish times, and a prominent leader in the resistance movement to the Italians. A member of the National Congress before its disbandment in March 1950. Nominated by the Amir in October 1950 as one of the members of the Cyrenaican delegation to the Libyan Constituent Assembly.

A supporter of the Senussis, his influence in his tribal area springs rather from his family connexions than from his own personality.

30. Abdullah Bil Aun (Cyrenaica)

Born 1890 in Benghazi. Member of the Hasa Shabarka tribe. Spent three years at El Azhar University, Cairo. Is literate in Arabic and Italian.

Entered the service of the Italian Administration in 1920 and became Mudir of Marawa, Beda Littoria and Barce successively. In 1930 fell into disfavour and was exiled to Ustica, Sicily. Returned in 1934. Became Mudir of Tobruk and Bardia, a position he held until 1941.

Co-operated during first British occupation, later evacuated to Egypt and Sudan. Returned in 1944. Appointed Mutassarif of Derna district in October 1949, and in May 1950 was promoted to be Director of the Interior in succession to Sayed Abu el Qasim.

Following the death of a Bahai Medical Officer at Agedabia, Cyrenaica, he was suspended from duty in April 1954 and then dismissed from office by Royal decree in June 1954, for not having taken proper administrative action in the case.

Probably the most knowledgeable official in the territory on the tribes and their affairs. Good disciplinarian, loyal, influential and experienced. Co-operates well with British officials and holds reasonable and constructive views. Is a supporter of the Senussis.

31. Taher Azhari (Fezzan)

Appointed to the Senate on 18th March, 1952.

32. Mustafa Aziz (Tripolitania)

Elected Deputy for Zliten East Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

33. Munir Awad Massaud el Baaba (Cyrenaica)

Born in Benghazi in 1919. Educated in the Kuttab school until the age of ten, then at the Italian and Arab Elementary School until the age of 16. Went to El Azhar University in Cairo in 1936 and passed the secondary third-class examination.

Joined the Libyan Arab Force in October 1940. Six months later transferred to the Cyrenaican Police and went to Palestine and Eritrea for training. In 1941 joined the 4th Battalion Libyan Arab Force, then in August 1943 the Cyrenaica Defence Force with the rank of sergeant. In 1945 he resigned from the Cyrenaica Defence Force and joined the British Military Administration as a clerk in the Supplies Department. Resigned in 1949. In October 1949 he became secretary to the Minister of Finance. In March 1950 he became Director of Press and Information, Cyrenaican Government. Upon the establishment of the Cyrenaican Assembly of Representatives in June 1950 he was elected as secretary to the Assembly.

Appointed as Cyrenaican representative on the Legal Affairs Sub-Committee in February 1951.

Appointed to the Ministry of Justice, 1952.

President of the Youth League, he is an ardent supporter of the King, a protégé of Omar Mansur Pasha (to whom he is related), and has some influence with the town notables. He is not averse to the British.

34. Taher Abdul Gader el Badawi (Tripolitania)

Born 1910. Nephew of the late Ahmed el Badawi of the important Zintan family in the Mizda area.

Has not taken an active part in politics except to undermine the Ghirza family. Member of the National Congress Party and stood as their candidate in the elections in February 1952. Mahmoud Muntasser, the then Prime Minister, appointed him a Senator, in order to win his support.

35. Mustafa Badi (Tripolitania)

Born in Misurata, 10th February, 1920. Educated in Tripoli Higher Islamic School.

Under the Italians he was municipal clerk and later president of the Municipality of Nofilia. Under the British he was town clerk at Sirte. Was president of the Nationalist Party's branch in Misurata. In 1947 he resigned from this party and formed a group called "Rabitat el Shabab." In 1949 appointed secretary of Misurata Municipality.

He is politically-minded and a good writer on political and social subjects. A strong nationalist.

36. Abdulqader el Badri (Cyrenaica)

Born about 1916. Member of the Awaqir tribe. Fair education. June 1950, elected to the Cyrenaican House of Representatives as member for the Awaqir. Elected Deputy for Al Abiar Constituency on 19th February, 1952.

37. Mahmoud Al Bahbah (Tripolitania)

Elected Deputy for Zliten West Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

38. Taher Bakir (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1904. Educated in Qoranic schools in Tripoli and studied at Naples Oriental College. Under the Italians he was a school-teacher.

From 1943 to 1947 he was Secretary of Arab Affairs in Tripoli district and later Administrative Assistant to the Provincial Commissioner of Tripoli. December 1947, appointed magistrate in the Ahliya Courts, Tripoli. In 1951 he was appointed Provincial Commissioner, Tripoli and Western Province. Appointed Director of the Interior on June 22, 1953. Appointed Nazir of Interior, July 1953, and then Nazir of Health, July 1954.

A loyal, well-informed and hardworking official with constructive ideas and well-balanced opinions. Somewhat conceited, however, and has limited influence over his compatriots.

39. Khalil Bannani (Cyrenaica)

Born in Derna, 10th March, 1920. Elementary education. Knows English and Italian as well as Arabic.

1937-42, an employee in the Registration Section of the Municipality of Derna. In 1942, during the British occupation, he was appointed secretary at the Municipality of Derna. 1943, assistant translator in the Mutassarifia of Derna. 1945, typist in Arabic and English. 1948, appointed chief clerk at the Mutassarifia of Derna. 2nd September, 1951, transferred to the post of Assistant Controller of Establishments. 13th February, 1952, appointed acting Mayor of Benghazi. May 1952, appointed Nazir of the Interior and Education. Relinquished appointment as Nazir of Education the same month. August 1952, appointed Nazir of Health and left the Interior. Suspended and then dismissed from office in June 1954 for not having taken action over certain events leading to the death of a Bahai doctor.

40. Suleiman Abu el Rabee el Barouni (Tripolitania)

Born in Cabeo about 1892. Educated in Tunis and at El Azhar University, Cairo. Qadi of Cabeo and later Nalut and Jefren.

1922-40, judge of the Sharia Court. In 1938 he wrote a book on the history of the Abadites, which caused a storm among the Malikites. In 1946 he was appointed a judge of the Sharia Court of Appeal in Tripoli. July 1950, invited by the United Nations Commission to represent Tripolitania on the Preparatory Committee of twenty-one. Supported Saadawi prior to independence but now supports the Government.

He is intelligent but lacks judgment. Ambitious but weak. Imbued with exaggerated ideas of the importance of the Barouni family.

41. Tewfik Nuri el Barqawi (Cyrenaica)

Born 1902 in Benghazi, a member of the Aqib tribe. Educated in Benghazi during the Turkish régime.

When the Italian occupation took place he went to Turkey but later returned and joined the tribesmen fighting the Italians. In 1929 he was arrested by the Italians and subsequently he spent two years interned at Benina. When he was released he again went to Turkey, where he applied for, and was granted, Turkish nationality. Travelled widely in the Middle East and returned to Cyrenaica in 1945. Became proprietor of a small Arabic newspaper *El Jebel el Akhdar* until shortly before his appointment in October 1949 as Naib-Mutassarif of Kufra Oases. Transferred from Kufra in November 1950 to be Naib-Mutassarif of Benghazi. June 1952, transferred as deputy Mutassarif to Agedabia. In spring of 1953 transferred as Deputy Mutassarif of Derna.

A supporter of the Senussis and of the British. Is discontented because his service to the Senussi cause has not earned him more rapid promotion.

42. Amur el Baruni (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1924. Studied at the Italo-Arab School in Tripoli. 1943-45, employed as a schoolmaster. 1946-48, local correspondent for the Arab News Agency. 1950-52, Director of the Arab Arts and Crafts School. 1952, appointed as Chief of the Prime Ministers office. 1953, appointed Director of Passports and Immigration.

Appointed Counsellor at the Libyan Embassy, London, in July 1954.

Decorations: Order of the Nile, 3rd Class.

43. Mustafa Beayou (Tripolitania)

Born in 1918 in Misurata. Graduated from Farouk I University in Cairo.

In 1947 was a teacher in Alexandria Secondary School and attended the first Cultural Congress held in the Lebanon. In 1948 wrote a book entitled "Review of Tripolitanian History." 1948-49, appointed to Tripoli Secondary School as headmaster. Not involved in politics but in April 1949 he attended the Youth Congress held in Tripoli. 1951, following his failure to be appointed Nazir of Education, he resigned from the Education Department to take a more active part in politics, in which he has made better headway.

A pleasant personality and one of the few cultured Tripolitaniens.

44. Taya el Bijou (Cyrenaica)

Member of an influential Benghazi family (Bellala). Born 1912. Educated Benghazi schools. Literate in Italian and Arabic.

Entered service of the Italian Government in 1935, reaching rank of Mudir. Left Government employ on outbreak of war and remained in Benghazi. Appointed Mudir of Sidi Raffa (Beda Littorio) in 1948. Promoted to Qaimaqam, Benghazi district, April 1950. Nominated by the Amir as member of the Assembly of Representatives in June 1950, and as a Cyrenaican representative on the Libyan Preparatory Committee. In October 1950 he was made a member of the Cyrenaican delegation to the Libyan Constituent Assembly. August 19, 1952, elected to the Cyrenaican Legislative Council as member for the Daud Constituency in Benghazi District, and became its first Vice-President.

Sensible and progressive, but inclined to be influenced by stronger personalities.

45. Abdel Razzak el Taher Bishti (Tripolitania)

Born 1903 in Zavia. Graduate of El Azhar University in Cairo. During the Italian occupation

he organised the Sharia Courts in the Fezzan. On his own initiative studied civil law and was the first licensed advocate in Tripoli.

Member of the Chief Administrator's Advisory Council until the anti-Jewish riots in November 1945 when he was interned for a fortnight and his services dispensed with. In 1946 he was elected secretary-general of the Nationalist Party which he was instrumental in forming, but resigned the same year when Mustafa Mizran (No. 151) took over the presidency of the party. In 1948 he was the first president of the Tripoli Ahliya Court which was established in that year. He took an active part in the May 1949 demonstrations against the Bevin-Sforza Agreement. In April 1950 he was invited to become a member of the Chief Administrator's Administrative Council, which resulted in his being expelled from the National Congress Party in July. In November 1950 he was made a judge of the Tripoli Court. He has written a number of anti-British and -American articles for *El Libi* newspaper.

He is shrewd, intelligent and ambitious but not likely to go very far.

46. Mahmoud el Bishti (Tripolitania)

Born in 1918 at Zavia. Member of a well-known family of educationalists in Tripolitania. Received his elementary education in Tripoli and later went to Egypt where he graduated. Returned to Tripoli in 1947 and assumed the duties of Inspector of Education. As Director of Libyan Education he negotiated and signed a Libyan-Egyptian Cultural Agreement in March 1953. On March 28, 1953, appointed Nazir of Education in the Tripolitania Legislative Council. Relieved of his post as Nazir September 1953. Reappointed Director of Education in the Ministry of Education the same month.

47. Al Mahdi Braish (Tripolitania)

Elected Deputy for Suq el Khemis Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

48. Muhammad Abu el Qader bu Breidan (Cyrenaica)

Born 1916, lives in Mechili. Sheikh of the Obeidat Ghaith tribe and extremely influential in his section, which is the biggest of the Obeidat tribe. His father was Mustashar of the Obeidat.

A committee member of the National Congress until its dissolution in March 1950, then a member of the Amir's Interim Advisory Council. Elected a member of the Chamber of Deputies on 19th February, 1952.

Quiet, sincere, ambitious and a supporter of the Senussis.

Has recently been discontented owing to what he calls the unfair discrimination shown by the local Government against the Abeidat.

49. Abdulsalaam Bseikry (Cyrenaica)

Born 1903. Educated in Cyrenaica and in Italy. Attended the Higher Technical Institute in Benghazi. Held various clerical posts under the Italians and the British. Appointed Mudir of Benghazi District 1943. Jebel District 1945. Appointed Qaimaqam, Benghazi District, January 1947. He was regarded as inefficient, inept at handling tribal matters and too liable to let political considerations interfere with his work. Became member of the Cyrenaican National Congress. 1950, elected member of the Cyrenaican Assembly of Representatives. Regarded as a sympathiser of the disbanded National Association. Elected Deputy for Sidi Daous Constituency (Benghazi) February 19, 1952. Voted against the Anglo-Libyan Treaty, August 1953.

50. Saleh Buesir (Cyrenaica)

Born in Benghazi in 1923, member of the Awaghir tribe. Is engaged in commerce. Educated at Arab and Italian schools in Benghazi until 1937, when he went to El Azhar University in Cairo to complete his education. Remained in Egypt till 1944, when he returned to Cyrenaica.

Became editor of the *Barqa el Gidida* (British-sponsored Arab newspaper), which position he held from 1944 until his resignation in 1949. Without tribal or family influence he has achieved prominence as a leader of the younger progressives. In June 1950 he was elected to the Assembly of Representatives as member for the Awaghir (Mtawa), and soon showed himself to be one of its more vocal and active members. In January 1951 he was press secretary to the delegation from the Libyan Constituent Assembly which went to Cairo to explain the Libyan case before the Arab League.

Shortly before the Libyan elections he launched a new weekly newspaper *Al Difa'a*, which presented the views of the Cyrenaican opposition elements. Elected a Deputy for Tocra on 19th February, 1952.

In Parliament he first adopted an antagonistic attitude towards treaties with foreign Powers but of late he has become more reasonable. He is a very influential member of Parliament and one of the best speakers.

Although a supporter of the Senussis, he is best described as a Progressive Nationalist, and he has set himself against the King's circle of advisers, and in particular Omar Mansur Pasha (No. 116). Witty and astute, he is the only Cyrenaican who can claim to be a journalist in the professional sense of the word. He has connexions in Egypt, which country he visits frequently. Speaks rather halting English and a similar amount of Italian.

51. Abdusalam al Busairi (Tripolitania)

Born Tripoli, 1897. Educated in Turkish and French schools and won a scholarship in 1911 from the Ottoman Government to study in France. After a lot of haggling with the Italian authorities on the subject he finally went to Italy instead. Completed his secondary education in Italy and later a degree in Law and Philosophy. On his return to Libya in 1919 he joined the nationalists movement and was elected as a member of the delegation which went to Italy to press for Libyan claims for Independence. 1922, he was sentenced by an Italian court to life imprisonment and confiscation of all his property. He was released ten years later and advised to leave the country. He went to Turkey in 1933. He joined the Civil Service and was appointed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and eventually became the head of a section. He returned to Libya in March 1954 and was appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Ben Halim Government in April 1954.

He has quite a nice personality but is not an outstanding character.

52. Wahbi el Buri (Cyrenaica)

Born in Alexandria in 1914, family came from Misurata. Educated at Egyptian primary and Italian secondary schools. Finally studied at the Oriental Institute in Naples and obtained a degree in political science.

Visited Benghazi in 1933 and was forbidden by the Egyptian Government to return to Egypt on account of his pro-Italian activities. Held various posts under the Italians in Cyrenaica. Applied for and was granted special Italian citizenship. Was then transferred to the Italian Legation in Algiers. Employed by the Italian Ministry of Propaganda during the war, and became secretary to the Grand Mufti. Returned with him to Egypt after the end of the war, where he had contacts with the Arab

League. The Amir was favourably impressed with him, sponsored his return to Cyrenaica, and appointed him assistant Rais Diwan at the end of 1947. Went to Cairo in January 1951 with the delegation from the Libyan Constituent Assembly to explain the Libyan case to the Arab League. Served for a time as Master of Ceremonies at the Diwan. Appointed Counsellor at the Libyan Legation in Cairo.

Influenced by Ibrahim Shelhi.

A quiet personality, he is cultured and sensible with a "continental" outlook. A moderate supporter of the British connexion. Speaks fluent Italian and good French.

Decorations: Order of the Nile, 1st Class.

53. Munir Burshan (Tripolitania)

Born in 1895 at Garian. Educated at the Military School, Constantinople. Speaks Arabic, Turkish and a little English, French and German.

During the 1914-18 war was an officer in the Turkish army and served in Palestine and in Mesopotamia. Travelled extensively in Europe and Asia Minor. After studying in Constantinople learnt engineering in Berlin and Stuttgart with Mercedes and Daimler Benz.

Returned to Tripolitania during the Italian occupation and was employed as an inspector of education. Visited Mecca three times at the expense of the Italian Government to spy on pilgrims. Editor of the *Tarabulus el Gharb* newspaper (which was then run by the British Administration) from May 1945 until 1950.

In June 1950 he went to the United Kingdom at the invitation of the British Administration. In July 1950 he was unanimously elected honorary president of the Libyan Labour Union. In October 1950 he was appointed a National Congress representative for Garian in the Libyan National Assembly. He was appointed an executive member of the National Congress in 1950. Was summarily dismissed from the party by Beshir Saadawi on 5th January, 1951, which led him to support the anti-Saadawi clique from the National Congress Party. On 12th May, 1951, an unsuccessful attempt was made on his life when he was fired on by an unknown assailant. The motive for the outrage was attributed to Burshan's press attacks on Beshir Saadawi and his henchman Dr. Fuad Shukri. Appointed Secretary of Parliamentary Affairs in 1951.

He is a trouble maker. Tries to please everyone and succeeds in pleasing nobody. An enthusiastic supporter of the Senussis. Tends to over-rate his own capabilities.

54. Bubaker Busahmein (Tripolitania)

Born in Zuara in 1901. An Abadite notable who carries a certain amount of influence. Primary education.

Was persecuted during Italian occupation. In 1943 he worked behind Axis lines during war operations on the Tunisian border. In the same year he was appointed Mudir of Regdalin (Zuara district). He is a clever and enterprising Mudir. Anti-Italian at heart. He is a prominent member of the Nationalist Party but has little faith in the policy of its president. Was strongly pro-British during the early part of the British occupation but has been an ardent Nationalist since 1948. Resigned from the National Congress in April 1951 but has not severed his connexions entirely.

55. Dr. Giuseppe Cassar (Tripolitania)

British subject by birth (Maltese). Born in Tripoli, 5th December, 1919. Has an Italian wife. Imports pharmaceuticals. Pro-Italian. Not popular with the Maltese community in Tripoli

because they believe that during his stay in Italy, 1942-45, he obtained Italian citizenship. Obtained his degree as doctor of science in economics and commerce in Italy in 1944. Returned to Tripoli in January 1946 with other repatriated Maltese. October 1949, appointed honorary Netherlands Consul.

56. Dr. Domenico Prosdocimo Cattiti (Tripolitania)

Italian. Born 21st September, 1902, in Bisenti (Teramo, Italy). Doctor of Law.

24th April, 1927, became a member of the Fascist Party. Came to Libya about 1928 and was part owner of two concessions. After the occupation in 1943 he was keen to collaborate with the British in all matters of common interest and he denounced fascism. During 1947 he did his utmost to revive the territory economically and to arrange industrial and commercial agreements between the British Administration and the Italian Government. In March 1948 he was granted permission to found the non-political "Economic Front of Libya" Party and became its president.

His political significance is moderate, but he is apt to veer to either wing if favourable to his economic plans, with which he is more concerned than politics.

57. Conte Giorgio della Croce (Tripolitania)

Italian, from Turin. Retired from cavalry with the rank of lieutenant-colonel in 1922.

Was Director of the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Italian Africa in Tripoli before the British occupation, and has spent a good deal of his career in Italian Africa. Adviser to the Italian Assistance Committee. Secretary for Italian Affairs under the British Administration, during which time he gave us full co-operation although he is believed to have organised Italian propaganda amongst the Arabs. Has visited Italy a number of times on official missions to the Italian Government, but he is suspected by his own countrymen of feathering his own nest.

58. Suleiman Dahan (Tripolitania)

Born in Zuara in 1918. Fairly well educated.

Was a school-teacher but was dismissed for leading anti-Italian demonstrations in Zuara in 1944. Reappointed school-teacher and dismissed again for causing trouble. During November 1945 riots in Tripoli he tried to stir up trouble in Zuara but was arrested and returned to Tripoli. In 1947 went to Egypt clandestinely and published articles in the Egyptian press containing false accusations against the Administration. Returned to Tripoli in 1948 as secretary to the Libyan Liberation Committee. Until 1948 was an executive member of the Nationalist Party. Issued three clandestine newspapers under different names attacking the British Administration, Italians and pro-Italian Arabs. Organised Youth Congress in April 1949. Instigated public demonstrations against the Bevin-Sforza Plan in May 1949. Looked upon as leader of the irresponsible elements in Tripoli. Since May 1949 has been in close touch with the Communist Alvaro Felici. July 1950, employed in the Posts and Telegraphs Department on his return from a visit to the United Kingdom. Attended a long course in the United Kingdom in 1952.

Appointed Secretary of the Communications Department of the Libyan Government in 1952, and Deputy Director of Posts and Telegraphs in the Tripolitanian Administration on April 1, 1953.

59. Muhammad bu Dajaja (Cyrenaica)

Born 1905 in Benghazi. Home in Barce, at present living in Benghazi. Member of the Qasr

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Hamad tribe. Studied at the University Bucconi, Milan, 1924-26, but failed to obtain a degree in economics due to the curtailment of his studies. Literate in Arabic and Italian.

In 1926 he was employed by the Banca d'Italia, Benghazi. In 1932, as a result of his public criticisms of Mussolini and the Fascist régime, he was tried by a special tribunal and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. He served the full term. From 1937 to 1940 he was employed with the Censorzio Agrario. In October 1940 he was again arrested and detained without trial—first in Benghazi prison and then in Zuetina concentration camp. Released by the first British occupation.

From 1943 to 1945 he was Mayor of Barce. From 1945 to 1948 he was engaged on private business. In September 1949 he was appointed Minister of Finance in the new Cyrenaican Government. In March 1950 he additionally assumed the Education portfolio, which he only held, however, for four months—after which it was transferred to the Minister of Health. He is known to have retained a number of Italian contacts. He paid a visit to Italy in January 1951, the object of which has never been revealed. Shortly after his return he accompanied the Financial Adviser, Government of Cyrenaica, to London for discussions in connexion with the "Grant-in-Aid." Relinquished his post as Nazir of Finance in May 1952. Has close business relations with Italy.

Reasonable and intelligent, and a supporter of the Senussis, he enjoys considerable popularity in the towns. Considered to be a protégé of Omar Mansur Pasha (No. 116), but actually shows some independence of judgment and good common sense.

60. Ali Mohammed Deeb (Tripolitania)

Educated in the El Azhar University, Cairo. At one time was chief clerk of the Sharia Courts, Tripoli. Edited a political newspaper called *Al Libi*, the first edition of which, appearing on August 16, 1952, contained criticism of both the Government and the Opposition. Elected to the Tripolitanian Legislative Council for Western Province and appointed President of the Council on March 28, 1953.

Following Saddiq Muntasser's appointment as Wali, relations became very strained between the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Council, until finally the King, acting on the advice of the Executive Council, dissolved the Legislative Assembly. This led him to file a case with the Supreme Court against the Wali and the Council of Nazirs which he won. The judgment of the Supreme Court was ignored both by the King and the Wali who went ahead in holding new elections for a new Legislative Assembly. Since then he has taken a back seat in politics. His determination and frankness has won him considerable praise.

61. Abd el Hamid el Deibani (Cyrenaica)

Born Derna January 15, 1902. Sheikh of the Tawajir tribe. Studies at the religious institute, Giarabub. Then went to El Azhar University at the Italian Government's expense. Returned to Cyrenaica, 1926, appointed chief clerk, Islamic Tribunal, Tobruk. 1927, appointed Qadi. 1932, appointed Qadi, Barce. 1936, appointed Qadi, Benghazi. 1943, appointed Grand Qadi, Cyrenaica. 1950, appointed President of the High Religious Court of Appeal which post he held until he was appointed to the Libyan Supreme Court, February 1954. Member of the National Congress Committee until it was disbanded in March 1950.

A God-fearing and enlightened man whose views deserve highest consideration. A leader of the enlightened elements among the younger intelligentsia who exercised a moderating influence.

50. Saleh Buesir (Cyrenaica)

Born in Benghazi in 1923, member of the Awaghir tribe. Is engaged in commerce. Educated at Arab and Italian schools in Benghazi until 1937, when he went to El Azhar University in Cairo to complete his education. Remained in Egypt till 1944, when he returned to Cyrenaica.

Became editor of the *Barqa el Gidida* (British-sponsored Arab newspaper), which position he held from 1944 until his resignation in 1949. Without tribal or family influence he has achieved prominence as a leader of the younger progressives. In June 1950 he was elected to the Assembly of Representatives as member for the Awaghir (Mtawa), and soon showed himself to be one of its more vocal and active members. In January 1951 he was press secretary to the delegation from the Libyan Constituent Assembly which went to Cairo to explain the Libyan case before the Arab League.

Shortly before the Libyan elections he launched a new weekly newspaper *Al Difa'a*, which presented the views of the Cyrenaican opposition elements. Elected a Deputy for Tocrá on 19th February, 1952.

In Parliament he first adopted an antagonistic attitude towards treaties with foreign Powers but of late he has become more reasonable. He is a very influential member of Parliament and one of the best speakers.

Although a supporter of the Senussis, he is best described as a Progressive Nationalist, and he has set himself against the King's circle of advisers, and in particular Omar Mansur Pasha (No. 116). Witty and astute, he is the only Cyrenaican who can claim to be a journalist in the professional sense of the word. He has connexions in Egypt, which country he visits frequently. Speaks rather halting English and a similar amount of Italian.

51. Abdusalam al Busairi (Tripolitania)

Born Tripoli, 1897. Educated in Turkish and French schools and won a scholarship in 1911 from the Ottoman Government to study in France. After a lot of haggling with the Italian authorities on the subject he finally went to Italy instead. Completed his secondary education in Italy and later a degree in Law and Philosophy. On his return to Libya in 1919 he joined the nationalists movement and was elected as a member of the delegation which went to Italy to press for Libyan claims for Independence. In 1922, he was sentenced by an Italian court to life imprisonment and confiscation of all his property. He was released ten years later and advised to leave the country. He went to Turkey in 1933. He joined the Civil Service and was appointed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and eventually became the head of a section. He returned to Libya in March 1954 and was appointed as Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Ben Halim Government in April 1954.

He has quite a nice personality but is not an outstanding character.

52. Wahbi el Buri (Cyrenaica)

Born in Alexandria in 1914, family came from Misurata. Educated at Egyptian primary and Italian secondary schools. Finally studied at the Oriental Institute in Naples and obtained a degree in political science.

Visited Benghazi in 1933 and was forbidden by the Egyptian Government to return to Egypt on account of his pro-Italian activities. Held various posts under the Italians in Cyrenaica. Applied for and was granted special Italian citizenship. Was then transferred to the Italian Legation in Algiers. Employed by the Italian Ministry of Propaganda during the war, and became secretary to the Grand Mufti. Returned with him to Egypt after the end of the war, where he had contacts with the Arab

League. The Amir was favourably impressed with him, sponsored his return to Cyrenaica, and appointed him assistant Rais Diwan at the end of 1947. Went to Cairo in January 1951 with the delegation from the Libyan Constituent Assembly to explain the Libyan case to the Arab League. Served for a time as Master of Ceremonies at the Diwan. Appointed Counsellor at the Libyan Legation in Cairo.

Influenced by Ibrahim Shelhi.

A quiet personality, he is cultured and sensitive with a "continental" outlook. A moderate supporter of the British connexion. Speaks fluent Italian and good French.

Decorations: Order of the Nile, 1st Class.

53. Munir Burshan (Tripolitania)

Born in 1895 at Garian. Educated at the Military School, Constantinople. Speaks Arabic, Turkish and a little English, French and German.

During the 1914-18 war was an officer in the Turkish army and served in Palestine and Mesopotamia. Travelled extensively in Europe and Asia Minor. After studying in Constantinople learned engineering in Berlin and Stuttgart with Mercedes and Daimler Benz.

Returned to Tripolitania during the Italian occupation and was employed as an inspector of education. Visited Mecca three times at the expense of the Italian Government to spy on pilgrims. Editor of the *Tarabulus el Gharb* newspaper (which was then run by the British Administration) from May 1945 until 1950.

In June 1950 he went to the United Kingdom at the invitation of the British Administration. In July 1950 he was unanimously elected honorary president of the Libyan Labour Union. In October 1950 he was appointed a National Congress representative for Garian in the Libyan National Assembly. He was appointed an executive member of the National Congress in 1950. Was summarily dismissed from the party by Beshir Saadawi on 5th January, 1951, which led him to support the anti-Saadawi clique from the National Congress Party. On 12th May, 1951, an unsuccessful attempt was made on his life when he was fired on by an unknown assailant. The motive for the outrage was attributed to Burshan's press attacks on Beshir Saadawi and his henchman Dr. Fuad Shuhayb. Appointed Secretary of Parliamentary Affairs in 1951.

He is a trouble maker. Tries to please everyone and succeeds in pleasing nobody. An enthusiastic supporter of the Senussis. Tends to over-rate his own capabilities.

54. Bubaker Busahmein (Tripolitania)

Born in Zuara in 1901. An Abadite notable who carries a certain amount of influence. Primary education.

Was persecuted during Italian occupation. In 1943 he worked behind Axis lines during guerrilla operations on the Tunisian border. In the same year he was appointed Mudir of Regdalin (Zuara district). He is a clever and enterprising Muslim. Anti-Italian at heart. He is a prominent member of the Nationalist Party but has little faith in its policy of its president. Was strongly pro-British during the early part of the British occupation. Has been an ardent Nationalist since 1948. Resigned from the National Congress in April 1951 but did not sever his connexions entirely.

55. Dr. Giuseppe Cassar (Tripolitania)

British subject by birth (Maltese). Born in Tripoli, 5th December, 1919. Has an Italian wife. Imports pharmaceuticals. Pro-Italian. Very popular with the Maltese community in Tripoli.

because they believe that during his stay in Italy, 1942-45, he obtained Italian citizenship. Obtained his degree as doctor of science in economics and commerce in Italy in 1944. Returned to Tripoli in January 1946 with other repatriated Maltese. October 1949, appointed honorary Netherlands Consul.

56. Dr. Domenico Prosdocimo Cattiti (Tripolitania)

Italian. Born 21st September, 1902, in Bisenti (Teramo, Italy). Doctor of Law.

24th April, 1927, became a member of the Fascist Party. Came to Libya about 1928 and was part owner of two concessions. After the occupation in 1943 he was keen to collaborate with the British in all matters of common interest and he renounced fascism. During 1947 he did his utmost to revive the territory economically and to arrange industrial and commercial agreements between the British Administration and the Italian Government. In March 1948 he was granted permission to found the non-political "Economic Front of Libya" Party and became its president.

His political significance is moderate, but he is apt to veer to either wing if favourable to his economic plans, with which he is more concerned than politics.

57. Conte Giorgio della Croce (Tripolitania)

Italian, from Turin. Retired from cavalry with the rank of lieutenant-colonel in 1922.

Was Director of the Personnel Department of the Ministry of Italian Africa in Tripoli before the British occupation, and has spent a good deal of his career in Italian Africa. Adviser to the Italian Assistance Committee. Secretary for Italian Affairs under the British Administration, during which time he gave us full co-operation although he is believed to have organised Italian propaganda amongst the Arabs. Has visited Italy a number of times on official missions to the Italian Government, but he is suspected by his own countrymen of feathering his own nest.

58. Suleiman Dahan (Tripolitania)

Born in Zuara in 1918. Fairly well educated. Was a school-teacher but was dismissed for leading anti-Italian demonstrations in Zuara in 1944. Reappointed school-teacher and dismissed again for causing trouble. During November 1945 riots in Tripoli he tried to stir up trouble in Zuara but was arrested and returned to Tripoli. In 1947 went to Egypt clandestinely and published articles in the Egyptian press containing false accusations against the Administration. Returned to Tripoli in 1948 as secretary to the Libyan Liberation Committee. Until 1948 was an executive member of the Nationalist Party. Issued three clandestine news-sheets under different names attacking the British Administration, Italians and pro-Italian Arabs. Organised Youth Congress in April 1949. Instigated public demonstrations against the Bevin-Sforza Plan in May 1949. Looked upon as leader of the irresponsible elements in Tripoli. Since May 1949 has been in close touch with the Communist Alvaro Felici. July 1950, employed in the Posts and Telegraphs Department on his return from a visit to the United Kingdom. Attended a long course in the United Kingdom in 1952.

Appointed Secretary of the Communications Department of the Libyan Government in 1952, and Deputy Director of Posts and Telegraphs in the Tripolitanian Administration on April 1, 1953.

59. Muhammad bu Dajaja (Cyrenaica)

Born 1905 in Benghazi. Home in Barce, at present living in Benghazi. Member of the Qasr

Hamad tribe. Studied at the University Bucconi, Milan, 1924-26, but failed to obtain a degree in economics due to the curtailment of his studies. Literate in Arabic and Italian.

In 1926 he was employed by the Banca d'Italia, Benghazi. In 1932, as a result of his public criticisms of Mussolini and the Fascist régime, he was tried by a special tribunal and sentenced to five years' imprisonment. He served the full term. From 1937 to 1940 he was employed with the Censorzio Agrario. In October 1940 he was again arrested and detained without trial—first in Benghazi prison and then in Zuetina concentration camp. Released by the first British occupation.

From 1943 to 1945 he was Mayor of Barce. From 1945 to 1948 he was engaged on private business. In September 1949 he was appointed Minister of Finance in the new Cyrenaican Government. In March 1950 he additionally assumed the Education portfolio, which he only held, however, for four months—after which it was transferred to the Minister of Health. He is known to have retained a number of Italian contacts. He paid a visit to Italy in January 1951, the object of which has never been revealed. Shortly after his return he accompanied the Financial Adviser, Government of Cyrenaica, to London for discussions in connexion with the "Grant-in-Aid." Relinquished his post as Nazir of Finance in May 1952. Has close business relations with Italy.

Reasonable and intelligent, and a supporter of the Senussis, he enjoys considerable popularity in the towns. Considered to be a protégé of Omar Mansur Pasha (No. 116), but actually shows some independence of judgment and good common sense.

60. Ali Mohammed Deeb (Tripolitania)

Educated in the El Azhar University, Cairo. At one time was chief clerk of the Sharia Courts, Tripoli. Edited a political newspaper called *Al Libi*, the first edition of which, appearing on August 16, 1952, contained criticism of both the Government and the Opposition. Elected to the Tripolitanian Legislative Council for Western Province and appointed President of the Council on March 28, 1953.

Following Saddiq Muntasser's appointment as Wali, relations became very strained between the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Council, until finally the King, acting on the advice of the Executive Council, dissolved the Legislative Assembly. This led him to file a case with the Supreme Court against the Wali and the Council of Nazirs which he won. The judgment of the Supreme Court was ignored both by the King and the Wali who went ahead in holding new elections for a new Legislative Assembly. Since then he has taken a back seat in politics. His determination and frankness has won him considerable praise.

61. Abd el Hamid el Deibani (Cyrenaica)

Born Derna January 15, 1902. Sheikh of the Tawajir tribe. Studies at the religious institute, Giarabub. Then went to El Azhar University at the Italian Government's expense. Returned to Cyrenaica, 1926, appointed chief clerk, Islamic Tribunal, Tobruk. 1927, appointed Qadi. 1932, appointed Qadi, Barce. 1936, appointed Qadi, Benghazi. 1943, appointed Grand Qadi, Cyrenaica. 1950, appointed President of the High Religious Court of Appeal which post he held until he was appointed to the Libyan Supreme Court, February 1954. Member of the National Congress Committee until it was disbanded in March 1950.

A God-fearing and enlightened man whose views deserve highest consideration. A leader of the enlightened elements among the younger intelligentsia who exercised a moderating influence.

62. Awni Dejeni (Cyrenaica)

Palestinian. Born about 1911. Educated in Palestine, Beirut and England. He took a degree at Queens' College, Cambridge, and did a year's post-graduate work at Oxford. He is a member of the English Bar and on his return to Palestine became an advocate and a lecturer at the Government Law School. Dejeni was driven out of Palestine, and like many others his family, suffered financial loss. His father was for many years a judge of the district court, Jaffa; and in late 1951 was invited by King Abdullah to become a member of the Court of the Coronation in Jordan. Dejeni's wife is a member of the same well-known Palestinian family which took no very active part in politics. She is a close friend of Queen Fatimah.

Dejeni was legal adviser to the King and assisted with the drafting of the Constitution and generally with the setting up of the Libyan Government. Appointed to the Libyan Supreme Court, February 1952.

He is a friend of Mahmoud Muntasser.

63. Bu Bakr bu Dhan (Cyrenaica)

Born in 1885. Lives in Messa and is Mustashar of the Dorsa tribe. A supporter of the Senussis and one of the leading tribal Sheikhs. Forceful and critical character. A wise man who is not, however, universally popular among the Dorsa. A great talker, confident of his ability to hold his job and position.

Nominated by the Amir in October 1950 to be a member of the Cyrenaican delegation to the Libyan Constituent Assembly.

64. Keilani Dreiret (Cyrenaica)

Born in Soluq in 1894. Magharba Shammakh tribe. Served in the Libyan Carabinieri, 1913-30. 1939, Secretary of Arab Affairs at Soluq under the Italians. He spent a short time in residence force despite this he is believed to have kept a number of Italian contacts. Interned by us after the occupation as he handed over five British soldiers to the Italians. Elected Deputy for Agedabia Nuririyya Constituence on 19th February, 1952.

An unsavoury character.

65. Abdul Rahman Duqduq (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1918. Educated at El Azhar University in Cairo.

Was an executive member of the Nationalist Party. Detained by the police during November 1945 riots. In December 1947 was appointed magistrate of the Ahliya Court. In 1948 became radio monitor for the Public Information Office of the British Administration. In 1949, Arabic political commentator at the Tripoli broadcasting station, in which position he was looked upon as being the "Voice of Tripoli Youth." April 1951, dismissed from the British information services for subversive political activity in connexion with the National Congress and Congress Youth.

Writes articles on various subjects and makes frequent speeches in order to increase his popularity. Advocated unity under the Senussi Emirate. Immature and not very intelligent but likely to improve if given careful guidance and supervision. A staunch supporter of Beshir Saadawi and not favourably disposed towards the Muntassers.

66. Massoud Ben Eissa (Tripolitania)

Born in Nalut in 1882. An Abadite notable and Kaimakam of Nalut. In 1924-25 he assisted the Italians against his countrymen.

Has political leanings and is fairly influential in his district. A hard person who has always backed the right horse in politics.

67. Yahiya Ben Messaud Ben Eissa (Tripolitania)

Born in Nalut in 1914, the son of Massoud ben Eissa (No. 66), the Berber leader who was Qaimaqam of Nalut.

15th June, 1948, he was made president of the Ahliya Court at Nalut. 14th April, 1949, elected to the Provisional Committee of the Youth Congress. Was on 2nd November, 1950, chosen as a neutral representative for the Nalut area on the Libyan National Assembly.

68. Kamal Farhat (Tripolitania)

Born in Jefren in 1894. Brother of Nejmeddin (No. 70) and Mahmoud (No. 69) and son of Mohamed Farhat, the son of the famous Tripolitanian leader. Studied in Qoranic schools in Tripolitania. From 1908-13 he was with his father in Constantinople where he continued his studies at Brusa College. Studied at Turin School of Commerce until 1918.

Until 1922 engaged in business. Left for the Fezzan in the same year. Was captured by the Italians in 1925 and sentenced to fifteen years' imprisonment for taking part in the armed resistance. Pardoned after five years. From 1930 to the British occupation was a clerk in the Singer Company. Since 1943 has devoted himself to agriculture. In January 1948 was elected president of Zavia Ahliya Court. Elected Deputy for Zavia Centre Constituency on 19th February, 1952.

Is calm, unflattering and well-balanced. Anti-Italian at heart; favoured the National Congress Party. Is very keen on improving his knowledge of legal procedure. Has proved to be a reasonable and unbiased judge.

69. Mahmoud Farhat (Tripolitania)

Born in Zavia in 1918. Son of a well-known Libyan leader and brother of Nejmeddin (No. 70) and Kamal (No. 68). Studied at the Italian Secondary School in Tripoli.

Employed by Banca di Napoli from 1939 to 1943. Editor of an Italian propaganda newspaper in Arabic. In 1943 joined the Tripolitania police as inspector. Was asked to resign in 1944 after taking part in anti-Italian demonstrations in Zuara. In 1945 joined the Education Department as a school-teacher. Played an important part in the formation of the Workers' Club. In 1946 was secretary-general of the United National Front. In the same year he left this party and joined the Nationalist Party. During 1945 riots he was detained. In April 1949 he attended the Youth Congress.

In 1952 he was appointed Secretary to the Minister of Communications.

Intelligent, well-educated but inexperienced in politics. Favoured the National Congress Party.

70. Nejmeddin Farhat (Tripolitania)

Born in Zavia in 1908. His father was a Deputy to the Turkish Parliament in Constantinople. Brother of Kamal (No. 68) and Mahmoud (No. 69). Studied at Naples Institute for Oriental Studies until 1942. Knows Italian and some English.

In 1943 joined the Tripolitania police as an inspector. Resigned in 1945 to take up a civil appointment as Secretary of Arab Affairs. Promoted to Administrative Assistant in 1946. At the end of 1946 he tried to form a pro-British political party in Zavia. In 1947 was transferred to headquarters as Assistant Officer for Native Affairs. In May 1949 was elected president of the Youth Congress. 1952, appointed Director of Establishments, Tripolitania; and later the same year became Acting Director of Establishments and Personnel, Federal

Government, since which he has shown a more co-operative attitude. Appointed Nazir of Finance, July 5, 1953. Resigned as Nazir of Communications, July 1954. He proved a capable Nazir during his term of office.

He is progressive in outlook, well-balanced in his opinions and steady and unexcitable by temperament. Well acquainted with general conditions of the territory. Should make a capable administrator.

71. Ali Abul Qassam Fellag (Cyrenaica)

Born 1915 in Benghazi, where he is now in business as a merchant. Belongs to the Karaghla Yedder tribe. Studied at Italian schools. Held various administrative posts in service of Italian Government. On final British occupation in 1942 he was appointed as secretary to the Benghazi Municipality, a position he held until his resignation in November 1947.

A leading member of the National Club, with pro-Italian and Egyptian sympathies, he is cosmopolitan in outlook, volatile in temperament, not a very devout Moslem, and not an over-enthusiastic supporter of the Senussis. Intelligent and energetic, he includes among his friends Sheikh Abdel Hamid Deibani (No. 61), Dr. Ali el Aneizi (No. 20) and Mahmoud Ben Muntasser (No. 156). He speaks fluent Italian and moderate English.

72. Mohueddin el Fikini (Tripolitania)

Son of the late Mohammed ben Khalifa Fikini, a famous rebel leader of the Jebel who rebelled against the Italians. Educated in Paris and graduated from the Sourbonne with a doctor's degree in legal studies. He was brought up in Tunis but returned to Libya in October 1950. Appointed Nazir of Justice in the Tripolitania Legislative Council on March 28, 1953. Relinquished this appointment and became Nazir of Interior and President of the Council of Nazirs, July 1954, when the organic law was amended making the Executive Council answerable to the Legislative Assembly. Accompanied the Prime Minister to America for the American/Libyan financial talks, July 1954. Rather full of his own importance.

73. Dr. Aurelio Finzi (Tripolitania)

Italian. President of the Italian Courts. Right-wing. His appointment to the Chief Administrator's Administrative Council in Tripoli under the British Administration was not acceptable to the Arabs but was popular with the largely Fascist-minded Italian population. Appointed Judge in the Federal Supreme Court (Pending Cases Division), December 22, 1954.

74. Hussein el Fiqi (Tripolitania)

Elected Deputy for Misurata (Zarrugh) Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

75. Gehan Sidki Ben Ahmed Fortia (Tripolitania)

Born in Misurata about 1890. Used his position as an Italian civil servant to enrich himself but was a vigorous critic of Italian methods. Opposed the formation of the Fascist Littorio Association for Arabs and refused to join. Resigned from Government service in 1938, when he refused to sit for a qualifying examination. Following the British occupation he was interned for over a year. A member of the Misurata Advisory Council. January 1948, president of the Misurata branch of the National Congress Party. Mayor, Misurata, 1953.

A rich property owner. Is more European than Arab. A staunch supporter of Beshir Saadawi and an opponent of the Muntasser family, but since independence has shown an inclination to support

the Muntasser Government following his appointment as an assessor to the courts in Misurata.

76. Abdel Jawad el Freitas (Cyrenaica)

Born about 1898 in Derna and is a member of the Tawajir tribe. He was educated at the Khuttab School in Derna and for a brief period in 1917 was secretary of the "Senussi Council" set up by Sayed Idris. He then went to Egypt and in 1919 won a scholarship offered by the Italian Government for El Azhar University, remaining in Egypt in consequence until 1926.

For the next two years he held a post as chief clerk in Benghazi and Derna, but was discharged when the rebellion broke out in the Jebel. He became a petition writer and in 1934 was employed once again by the Italians as a schoolmaster. After the Italians left Cyrenaica he was employed for a time by the Public Information Officer and then entered the Education Department, becoming a school inspector in Derna where, in 1947, he is known to have belonged to the Derna branch of the National Association. In 1948 he became a member of the Cyrenaican National Congress, and in 1950 was appointed by the Amir as a member of the Cyrenaican delegation to the Libyan Constituent Assembly.

He is intelligent, a good organiser, a supporter of the Senussi Crown and firm follower of Muhammad Saqisli (No. 192).

Appointed to the Senate on 18th March, 1952.

77. Mohamed Tewfik el Gariani (Tripolitania)

Born in Garian about 1895. Took refuge in Cairo during the Italian occupation and was for some time private secretary to Lamum Pasha. During his stay in Tripolitania from 1946 to 1949 he endeavoured to make himself a political leader but failed through lack of capability. 1947-48, member of the Central Committee of the United National Front. In 1948 he fell under the influence of Ibrahim Ben Shaaban (No. 203) and since then has been strongly pro-Italian. In May 1949 he was intimidated by the mob which demonstrated against the Bevin-Sforza Plan and consequently left for Cairo.

Elected to the Tripolitania Legislative Council as representative for Garian East in March 1953; and on March 29 he was elected Secretary of the Council.

Strongly opposed to the Senussis. Not to be trusted, will follow whoever pays him the most.

78. Ali Gatrun (Fezzan)

Appointed to the Senate on 18th March, 1952.

79. Anwar Suleiman Ben Gharsah (Tripolitania)

Elected Deputy for Zanzur Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

80. Ahmed el Alem Ghirza (Tripolitania)

Born in Mizda in 1871. Under the Italians was representative of and adviser for the Qibla tribes. Distantly related to King Idris, whose mother and grandmother were from the Bu Seif tribe.

Fought against the Italians until 1921 when he became intermediary between the five Qibla tribes and the Italian Administration. About 1924 he led the other chiefs of the Awlad Bu Seif to Garian to show their allegiance to General Graziani. A few days later he accompanied the general to Tripoli to make a formal submission to the Government. In 1926 he was nominated Government agent for his tribe. In 1941 he was Secretary for Arab Affairs. In 1949 he encouraged the formation of the Istiqbal Party.

One of the ten members appointed in March 1953 by the Tripolitanian Administration to the local Legislative Assembly.

He is shrewd and ambitious. Pro-French. Prepared to co-operate with any foreign Government provided his influence and financial interests are safeguarded. Learned in religious matters and has considerable influence in his area. Holder of the Italian "Grand Cordon" decoration. Not a pleasant personality.

81. Mohammed Shara Ghirza (Tripolitania)

Born in Zawiet Ghirza in 1917. Elected Deputy for Mizda area on 19th February, 1952. Not a prepossessing character but anxious to please.

82. Mohamed Ben Ali Gialguem (Fezzan)

Elected (unopposed) Deputy for Ouadi Gharbi and Ghat Constituency in the Fezzan on 19th February, 1952.

83. Ibrahim Gritli (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli, 22nd April, 1894. Said to have served in the Royal Italian Navy. He was a Mudir under the Italians and spied on the activities of local Arabs. After the British occupation, spread pro-Italian propaganda. He was a member of Admiral Finzi's party and considers himself an Italian.

84. Ramadan el Gritli (Tripolitania)

Born in Candia (Crete), 14th July, 1899. A paid Italian propagandist. During the early days of the Italian occupation he led an armed band against the Arab rebels. From 1930-34 he was interpreter and acted as a political adviser to General Graziani. Took part in the fighting against the British in Cyrenaica during the last war and performed intelligence duties on the Egyptian frontier. He was interned by us in 1943 and released in 1944. A leading member of the Istiqlal Party formed in July 1949.

85. Mahmoud bu Guetin (Cyrenaica)

A member of the Barassa tribe and a relative by marriage of Ibrahim Shelhi (No. 210). Served as an officer in the Cyrenaica Defence Force and then became a Police Officer in the Cyrenaican Police Force. He was appointed Deputy Commissioner of Police in 1952 and promoted to Commissioner of Police in 1953 with the rank of Miralai (brigadier). June 1954, he was made a Lewa (major-general) in the same post. He has consistently taken pains to ingratiate himself with King Idris in order to serve his own ambitions and has thereby incurred a degree of unpopularity with other authorities and also with his subordinates. By ruthlessness and opportunism he has so far overcome the handicap of lack of education. Appears willing to assume responsibilities though with scant regard for legal niceties and might therefore sooner or later overplay his hand. A born intriguer.

86. Zacchino Habib (Tripolitania)

Born 1896 in Tripoli. British subject. Speaks English, Hebrew, Arabic, French and Italian.

Acted as interpreter in the negotiations that took place between the Italians and the Cyrenaicans prior to the Treaty of Acroma. Wealthy wholesale merchant and until 1947 president of the Jewish community in Tripoli. Was a member of the United National Front and a member of the delegation that went to Cyrenaica to discuss unity with the Cyrenaican Congress. In April 1950 he was invited by the Chief Administrator to become a member of the Administrative Council.

His advice has frequently been sought and he has always been found reliable. Influential member of the Jewish community and is on very friendly terms with the Arabs.

87. Mahdi Ben Mohamed Haggiagi (Tripolitania)

Born in Suk el Jiuma in 1916. Graduated from Fuad I University in Cairo in 1946. In 1947 returned to Tripoli and joined the Education Department as secondary school teacher. December 1947, appointed a magistrate of the Tripoli Ahliya Court. At the end of the scholastic year 1948-49 he became manager of a milk factory in Tripoli. Not talkative but has a sense of humour. Not a member of any political party.

88. Mustafa Ahmed Ben Halim (Cyrenaica)

Born in Egypt in 1920, son of Derna merchant who emigrated to Egypt in the early days of the Italian occupation of Cyrenaica. Family was originally from Zliten, Tripolitania. Educated at Egyptian elementary and secondary schools. Graduated from Fouad el Awal University with a B.Sc. in civil engineering. Obtained a post with a firm of Egyptian contracting engineers. His family remained in touch with Cyrenaica and he paid periodical visits to Derna where his cousin Abdel Hamid ben Halim is a prominent member of the National Association.

In July 1950 he was appointed Minister of Works and Communications in the Cyrenaican Government. Visited London together with the Minister of Finance in February 1951 for discussions in connexion with the Grant-in-Aid.

Incurd the displeasure of King Idris and was forced to resign his post as Nazir of Public Works and Communications in October 1952, but was re-appointed two weeks later on the intervention of Ibrahim Shelhi (No. 210), with whom he has maintained close relations.

Member of the United Nations Economic Council. Represented Cyrenaica on the Board of Development and Stabilisation Agency. Appointed Minister of Communications February 17, 1954, relinquishing Nazir post. Appointed Prime Minister when the Saqisli's Government resigned April 1954. Visited Turkey and Egypt, June 1954. Visited America, July 1954, in connexion with the Libyan/American financial talks. Prior to becoming Prime Minister he adopted a pro-Egyptian outlook and was believed to be in business partnership with Sayed Abdullah Abid el Senussi (No. 193) and Ibrahim Shelhi (No. 210). He is an opportunist who has played his cards well. Although he claims to have dealt with Egyptian intrigues in Libya sternly it is probable that he is forced to do so in fear of the King. He has adopted a friendly attitude towards us since becoming Prime Minister.

89. Senussi Ben Hameda (Fezzan)

Elected Deputy for Murzouk Constituency in the Fezzan on 19th February, 1952.

90. Mohammed Kamel el Hammali (Tripolitania)

Born Suk el Jiuma in 1885. Was Superintendent of Education in Tripoli during the Italian occupation. An executive member of the Independence Party and therefore looked upon as being pro-Italian. 1951, appointed as Director of Arabic studies in the Italian schools. Appointed Nazir of Health, September 1953. Resigned July 1954.

Not an outstanding personality.

91. Beshir Ben Hamuda Ben Mamza (Tripolitania)

Born about 1896. Studied religious law and practised as a lawyer in the Sharia Courts. Treated by his colleagues with disdain because of his hypocrisy and his corruption.

Was a member of the Nationalist Party but left it in 1945 to assist Ali Fiqih Hassan (No. 96) in the formation of the Free National Bloc, of which he was secretary until October 1947. Appointed

assessor to the Italian courts in 1945. In August 1947 he was licensed to practise as an advocate in the British military courts in Tripolitania. In December 1947 quarrelled with the president of the Free National *Bloc* over financial matters and formed the Labour Party. He received little support and his party ceased to be recognised officially in December 1948. In 1948 and 1949 he visited Cairo where he contacted elements of the Tripolitanian Defence Committee which was backed by Azzam Pasha.

It is said that he will stoop to anything that will bring him political power. Has failed to become a national leader and has consorted with Italian agents. Is extremely pro-Italian. Of little political importance.

92. Mohammed al Haneish (Cyrenaica)

Was employed by the Italians before 1942. Under the former Military Administration he served as chief clerk to the senior civil affairs officer in Benghazi. Later appointed assistant Mutassarif of Derna where he was unpopular with the townsfolk who suspected him of corruption and failed to co-operate satisfactorily with the British Military Authorities. In April 1953 he became chief secretary in the Nazarat of Interior after understudying the British chief secretary whom he succeeded in this post. In this capacity he has so far shown himself reasonably co-operative in matters affecting the interests of the British forces in Cyrenaica. Active and intelligent, he combines ability with ambition. Speaks some English and good Italian.

93. Mohammed Ibrahim el Hangari (Tripolitania)

Born Garian about 1900. Studied in Tripoli Qoranic schools and at El Azhar University in Cairo.

One of the first to co-operate with the British when they occupied Tripolitania. Greatly esteemed and respected.

Qadi of Zavia, later Sharia Court Judge in Misurata. An executive member of the United National Front, affiliated to the National Congress Party, and president of its branch in Zavia. 1947, member of the Tripolitanian delegation to Benghazi to negotiate the unity of Libya under the Senussi Amirate. May 1949, took an active part in the demonstrations against the Bevin-Sforza Agreement. Anti-Italian at heart. November 1950, chosen as a National Congress and United National Front representative for the Zavia area in the Libyan National Assembly, although he was in opposition to Beshir Saadawi. Under the Mufti's influence.

94. Ahmed el Hassairi (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1908. Educated in local schools.

During the Italian occupation he was an announcer on Tripoli radio. Since 1943 has been a leading member of the Arab Cultural Club. Secretary of the Nationalist Party since 1946. January 1948, appointed magistrate in the Ahliya Court but dismissed in September 1948 for partiality. Appointed Arabic announcer on Tripoli radio in 1948. Served as a clerk in the Sharia Court and Sheikh of a quarter of Tripoli town. Appointed Nazir of Health, August 1, 1953. Transferred to the post of Nazir of Education, September 1953. Resigned July 1954.

A good speech-maker. Pleasant, intelligent and popular, but rather a "yes man."

95. Ahmed el Fiqih Hassan (Tripolitania)

Born 1895, Tripoli. Father was secretary to the Turkish Governor, Rageb Pasha, and an assessor

and adviser in the Turkish Court of Appeal. Studied Arabic and Turkish in Tripoli until the end of 1911, when he went to Egypt and Turkey where his father emigrated after the Italian occupation of Tripoli. He remained there for seven years and returned to Tripoli in 1919.

Soon after his arrival in Tripoli he started his nationalist activities and founded the Arab Cultural Club which later was closed by the Italians. In 1930 he married the sister of Mustafa Mizran (No. 151). In 1931 he obtained Turkish nationality. Appointed director of Awqaf library in 1936. He was arrested in November 1945 and released in January 1946 in connexion with anti-Jewish riots.

In 1946 he founded the Nationalist Party, from which he later resigned to become a member of the United National Front. He resigned from this party, owing to his differences with Salem Muntasser (No. 160), to join the free National *Bloc* founded by his brother Ali Fiqih Hassan (No. 96). He acted as president of this party during his brother's internment in 1948. Is inclined to hold Nationalist views, being under the influence of his brother.

In September 1947 he was a member of the Arab Advisory Education Committee. In December 1947 appointed magistrate at the Ahliya Courts, Tripoli. Early in 1949 he was appointed manager of the Awqaf Council in succession to Mahmoud Muntasser (No. 156). In April 1950 he was invited by the Chief Administrator to become a member of the Administrative Council; he accepted.

He is not an outstanding personality and not likely to go very far.

96. Ali Fiqih Hassan (Tripolitania)

Born 1897. Turkish of Libyan origin. Younger brother of Ahmed el Fiqih Hassan (No. 95). His family emigrated to Egypt and later to Turkey. From 1911 to 1919 he was educated in Alexandria and later in Turkey. Speaks Turkish, French and Italian.

On his return to Tripolitania he was not employed by the Italians but lived on his small private income. Following the occupation of Tripolitania by the Allied forces, he petitioned the British for the independence of Libya. Arrested with his brother in November 1945 after anti-Jewish riots; released sixteen days later. In 1946 he was a member of the United National Front, but in the same year he left this party and formed the Free National *Bloc*.

In February 1948 he delivered an extremely provocative speech attacking all foreigners and describing them as infidels. He also caused to be displayed inflammatory notices inciting Arabs to attack Italians and pro-Italian Arabs. Communal disorders followed in which police and troops were used to disperse the rioters with tear gas. Ali Fiqih Hassan was arrested on 2nd February as a result of the disorders. While in prison he resigned the presidency of the Free National *Bloc* and swore to forgo all political activity as the price of his freedom. In April he was released.

In January 1949 he clandestinely resumed political activity, making every attempt to hinder efforts being made to secure a united Libya under a Senussi Amirate. He resumed the presidency of the Free National *Bloc* the same year. After an interview with the Amir of Cyrenaica in September 1950 he adopted a pro-Senussi policy, causing considerable resentment among members of his party. When candidates for the Libyan National Assembly were being chosen by the Mufti of Tripolitania he refused to co-operate unless at least ten members of his party were nominated. Under such conditions no members of his party were chosen and he reverted to his former anti-Senussi policy.

He has a good presence, is abrupt in his speech and, on occasions, can rant and rave in a pseudo-Hitler manner.

97. Mustafa Sadiq Hassan (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli about 1905, of Turkish origin. Educated in Tripoli schools. Brother-in-law of Mohamed Ahmed Areigib.

Established contacts with the Destour movement in French North Africa before the British occupation of Libya and sheltered members of this party who fled to Egypt via Tripolitania. Interned after November 1945 riots. Joined the Nationalist Party when it was formed in 1946 and was its secretary. Quarrelled with Mustafa Mizran (No. 151), the leader, and was forced to resign as he was suspected of watching and reporting Mizran's pro-Italian activities. In December 1947 he was appointed magistrate in the Ahliya Courts, Tripoli. In 1949, appointed chief clerk of Tripoli Ahliya Courts. In November 1950 he was appointed a deputy judge in the Civil Courts.

Of little political significance. Close friend of Abdel Razzak el Taher Bishti (No. 46).

98. Salem Ben Hassan (Fezzan)

Elected Deputy for Sebha Constituency in the Fezzan on 19th February, 1952.

99. Mahmoud Bu Hidma (Cyrenaica)

Born about 1895. An influential tribal Sheikh of the Agedabia area.

Was active in the resistance to the Italians from 1911, when he was 16, until he finally went to Egypt in 1928. In 1940 he was one of the Sheikhs at the council which determined on the raising of the Senussi forces and assisted in the recruiting. He returned to Cyrenaica in May 1943. Was a member of the National Congress until its disbandment in March 1950, and in June of the same year was appointed by the Amir to be one of the Cyrenaican representatives on the Libyan Preparatory Committee.

Elected President of the Cyrenaican Legislative Assembly in November 1952.

He is literate in Arabic and a good tribal representative with sensible ideas.

100. Faiz el Irdissi (Tripolitania)

Served in the Palestine Police until the end of the British Mandate in Palestine, when he retired on pension with the rank of Assistant District Superintendent. He became Minister of Defence in the "All Palestine Government" which was set up in Gaza under the auspices of the Arab League, but soon tired of the work and returned to look after his estates at Jericho in 1950. Came to Tripolitania, his country of origin, in 1952 and was appointed Federal Police Liaison Officer, given the rank of Lewa (Major-General) June 1954 and appointed Federal Commissioner of Police. He is not brilliant mentally and has failed to make an impression in his federal appointment. He seems fairly well disposed towards the British connexion.

Decorations: M.B.E., King's Police Medal.

101. Abu Bakr el Ismirli (Tripolitania)

Comes from a well-known Tripoli family famous for the piety of its members. Was sent to Turkish schools in Tripoli and then to the Italian school which he completed just about the time of the Italian Occupation. He has also had instruction in Arabic language, literature, philology, &c., under scholars such as Sheikhs Omar Meisawi, Othman Gagigi and Muhammad el Arabi.

He was sent to Rome on scholarship in 1911 together with Dr. Abdussalam al Busiri and the

accountant Bashir el Busiri. In Rome he obtained a diploma in Accountancy and Economics, and returned in 1917 to be appointed accountant of the Department of Seized Property until 1919. He was transferred to the Chief Accountant's office at the Government headquarters until he entered a competition with thirteen Italians for the post of a municipal accountant which he won with great distinction. As a result he was appointed General Accountant at the Municipality in 1921 and remained until 1944 when he was appointed assistant to the Chief Accountant of the Municipality. He became Chief Accountant of the Municipality at the end of January 1953.

Appointed Nazir of Communications on July 5, 1953.

102. Omran al Jadra (Cyrenaica)

Born in Derna about 1898. During the Turco-Italian war in 1912 he was sent to Turkey for military training and remained there to make his career in the Turkish army in which he attained the rank of lieutenant-colonel. His military career has been undistinguished as he is a man of very limited intelligence and been concerned mainly with physical training. In 1952 he was selected by the Libyan Minister of Defence, with the permission of the Turkish authorities, to assume the command of the Libyan army about to be formed under the supervision of the British Military Mission. His relations with the British Military Mission were consistently unsatisfactory owing to his failure to grasp the essentials of the task entrusted to him or to give himself wholeheartedly to his job. His conceit, lack of imagination and general incompetence thoroughly exasperated the competent Libyan authorities, and he was finally replaced as Commander-in-Chief of the Libyan army by an Iraqi Lieutenant-Colonel in February 1954. He was appointed to the somewhat nebulous post of "Military Attaché" to the Libyan Ministry of Defence.

103. Ali Salih Jaouda, M.B.E. (Cyrenaica)

Born 1900 in Benghazi, where he now lives. Belongs to the Karaghla Yedder tribe. Educated at the Turkish Primary School in Benghazi.

Joined the forces of Sayed Ahmed el Sherif and served under Nuri Pasha in fighting the Italians. Later settled in Alexandria, Egypt, as a merchant, where, upon the outbreak of war, he assisted in the formation of the Libyan Arab Force, in which he served as an officer. In 1944 he became Mudir of El Abiar, and in 1945 Qaimaqam, Barce, where he remained until January 1948 when he was appointed Naib-Mutassarif, Benghazi. In June 1949 he became Mutassarif, Benghazi. Member of the National Congress until its disbandment in March 1950.

Appointed Director of the Interior, June 1954.

Experienced, not really intelligent but with abundant common sense, he is a practical man—especially good on tribal affairs. Belongs to leading Benghazi family. An antagonist of Omar Mansur Pasha, but loyal to the King. Decoration—M.B.E.

104. Jarbua Abdul Jelil (Cyrenaica)

Born 1883. Mustashar of the Abid Mansur tribe and lives at Tecnis. A hearty old Sheikh, not over-blessed with brains, but universally respected. Financially well-off, he is content with present circumstances and has no particular ideas or ambitions of his own for the country's future. A supporter of the Senussis.

He was a member of the Cyrenaican National Congress until its disbandment in 1950 and then of the Amir's Interim Advisory Council.

105. Saad Bu Jeralla (Cyrenaica)

Very wealthy. Main interests are wine and women. Frequently drunk. Mentally unstable.

Elected Deputy for Shahat Constituency on 19th February, 1952, but his membership was withdrawn by unanimous vote at a secret session of the House of Representatives on 5th May, 1952.

106. Ali Assad Jerbi (Cyrenaica)

Born 1901 in Derna, belongs to the Tawajir tribe. Now lives in Benghazi. Educated in Turkey, later entered the service of the Italian Administration in Cyrenaica. Became a Mudir and subsequently a "Secretary for Arab Affairs."

Mayor of Derna during first and second British occupation. Counsellor to the Amir in Egypt during 1943. Superintendent of Education on return to Cyrenaica in 1944, followed by his appointment as Deputy Secretary for Development, British Military Administration. One of the two secretaries of the National Congress (disbanded in March 1950). Appointed Minister of Works and Communications in September 1949 upon formation of Cyrenaican Government. Appointed as representative for Cyrenaica on the Advisory Council to the United Nations Commissioner for Libya in April 1950.

In August 1950 he went to Geneva with the council and subsequently paid official visits to London and Paris. In October, at the United Nations Commissioner's special request, he attended the meeting of the United Nations General Assembly at Lake Success, and afterwards went to Washington. Commenced to make a name for himself in circles outside Libya and when the first Libyan Federal Government was formed in March 1951 he was appointed Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs. Also held portfolio of Health, but in a later reorganisation this was given to another member of the Government and Ali Jerbi took over the portfolio of Justice.

Relieved of his post as Minister for Foreign Affairs and appointed Minister of Defence on 24th December, 1951, on the declaration of the independence of Libya. This came as a great blow to him, but he was considered by both the King and the Prime Minister too ineffective as Foreign Minister to deal with the various Powers who had special interests in Libya.

He retained the same portfolio in the Saqisli Government which followed but, owing to ill-health, he was finally appointed on 23rd February, 1954, as a Minister Plenipotentiary *en disponibilité*. He was appointed as the first Libyan Minister to Turkey in June 1954 and left Libya to take up his appointment in July 1954.

Decorations: Order of Independence, 1st Class. Order of the Nile, 1st Class.

Experienced, capable and progressive, he stands at the head of the *intelligentsia* derived from the old Italian Administration. Little tribal standing or family influence, he is primarily a Government official. Fluent in Italian, French, Turkish and English. In political outlook a progressive Nationalist, personally ambitious and well disposed towards the British.

107. Suleiman Sami el Jerbi (Cyrenaica)

Born in Derna, 1907. Member of the Tawajir tribe. Educated in Italian schools in Benghazi and Alexandria. From 1929 until 1932 he worked in an Italian bank in Alexandria.

After this he entered Italian Government service and in 1936 became Secretary for Arab Affairs at the Italian Consulate in Sollum, later transferring to Alexandria. While in Egypt he acted as an Italian agent and was made a Chevalier of the Italian Colonial Order of the Star of Italy. At the outbreak

of war with Italy in 1940 he was sent, without much option, to Rome, where he was employed by the Ministry of Popular Culture as a translator and Arab propagandist. His broadcasts were of a moderate nature.

He returned to Cyrenaica in 1945, and in 1946 obtained a post as clerk in the Public Information Office, eventually rising to the position of administrative officer. In October 1950 he was appointed by the Amir to the Libyan Constituent Assembly as a delegate for Cyrenaica, and in December 1950 he became secretary of the delegation. Appointed Chief of the Prime Minister's Cabinet in December 1951. February 1952, appointed Director-General of the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Appointed Permanent Under-Secretary of State to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in November 1952.

A brother of Ali Bey Jerbi (No. 106), he is able and intelligent, primarily a civil servant rather than a politician. He speaks Greek and excellent Italian, English and French.

Decorations: Order of the Nile, 3rd Class.

108. Fuad Kaabazi (Tripolitania)

Born 1920. Attended religious institutes. Later went to an Italian elementary and secondary school. Sub-editor of the Italian newspaper *Corriere di Tripoli*. Later appointed a teacher in the Arab secondary school. 1950, was given a special scholarship to study civil engineering in London and was attached to the Ealing Borough Council. On his return appointed to the Public Works Department, Tripoli. Later joined the Development and Stabilisation Agency, where he remained until September 1953, when he returned to the Public Works Department. On 27th February, 1954, appointed Assistant Director of the Public Works Department. Represented Libya, March 1953, in the Cultural Exchange Conference of Mediterranean Countries and lectured on the influence of Arabic literature on Italian poetry. July 1953, represented Libya at the U.N.E.S.C.O. Conference in Paris. July, appointed Nazir of Public Works.

109. Dr. Kheir El-Din Kaddara (Tripolitania)

Born 1900 in Zliten. Brother of Mansur Ben Kaddara (No. 110). His father was A.D.C. to Sultan Abdel Hamid of Turkey. Attended a military school in Damascus. Speaks Turkish and French. Worked as a land surveyor in Syria. Has a diploma in chemistry and botany; studied medicine for two years. Later he studied law in Damascus and completed this course in Paris and Toulouse. Became a doctor of political economy in 1946. In 1936 his father received a letter from Mussolini through the Italian Consul inviting the family to return to Libya and occupy a high position. Instead Kheir went to France and practised as an advocate.

In May 1947 he came to Tripoli where he planned to open a bank but nothing transpired. In January 1948 he was appointed assistant in the Legal Department. Later in 1948 he was appointed president of the Civil Branch of the Ahliya Court, Tripoli. He joined the Congress Party the same year. Elected to the Tripoli Municipal Council in January 1949. In March 1950 he resigned from the National Congress Party after expressing dissatisfaction with the policy of Beshir Saadawi and joined the executive committee of the Istiqlal Party. In April 1950 he was promoted to legal officer and in November 1950 he replaced Abdel Razzak el Bishti as president of the Ahliya Court.

He finally left Tripoli for Syria in 1953, having failed to obtain any further promotion in the Administration.

He is on good terms with most politicians and tries to be friendly with everybody. He is married to a Frenchwoman and has two daughters.

110. Mansour Kaddara (Tripolitania)

Born in Zliten in 1905 and brought up in Turkey and Damascus. His father was A.D.C. to the Sultan of Turkey. Obtained Transjordanian nationality in 1932. He knows Turkish, Arabic and French well. At one time he was manager of the Arab Bank in Amman and later manager of the Arab National Bank in Cairo.

1944, was the prime organiser of a number of demonstrations for the independence of Tripolitania, for which he was deported by the British authorities. October 1946, deputy president and treasurer of the Cyrenaica-Tripolitania Defence Committee. March 1947, secretary of the Libyan Liberation Committee in Cairo. May 1949, headed the Tripolitanian delegation to the United Nations. 8th March, 1951, appointed Minister of Finance in the new Tripolitanian Government, and on 29th March he was appointed to the same portfolio in the provisional Federal Libyan Government.

Appointed first Libyan Minister to the Court of St. James on March 31, 1953, and consequently relinquished his post as Minister of Finance.

Appointed Chief of the Royal Cabinet, 1st March, 1954, having declined to accept the appointment of Minister of Foreign Affairs in the Saqisli Government. His influence in the Palace is limited.

He is ambitious, sociable and well-mannered but inclined to try to please everybody. He is not a strong man. He is married to the daughter of Helmi Pasha who owns the Arab Bank and who was the first Governor of the Arab part of Palestine. He is very well connected in the Middle East.

111. Salem el Kadi (Tripolitania)

Born in Misurata about 1900. Not well educated but a merchant of good reputation.

In 1948 he was elected Mayor of Misurata and president of its Ahliya Court. In the same year he resigned as president of the court owing to pressure of work. April 1950, invited by the Chief Administrator to be a member of the Administrative Council, which resulted in his dismissal in July from the National Congress Party by Beshir Saadawi. 8th March, 1951, appointed Minister of Agriculture in the Tripolitanian Government and on 24th December, 1951, appointed Nazir of Agriculture and Health for Tripolitania. Relinquished the post of Nazir of Health in March 1953 but retained that of Nazir of Agriculture.

Relieved of his post September 3, 1953. Since then he has been violently opposed to Saddiq Muntasser and has tried very hard to undermine the latter's position. Pleasant and reliable and is well disposed towards the British.

112. Ali Karamanli (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1893. Recognised as head of the Karamanli family in the absence of Suleiman Karamanli, who was in Italy during the Italian régime. The latter died in Tripoli in 1945. This has always been a bone of contention between him and Taher Karamanli (No. 113), his cousin, who in 1945 rather took his place as head of the family.

In 1938, resigned from Italian Government employment when he was required to take a qualifying examination. Employed by the Germans and later by us as contractor for finding labourers. In 1946 he was appointed Custodian of Italian Archives. September 1948, attempted to commit suicide by taking poison but fortunately saved his own life by taking milk after he had taken the poison. In 1951, appointed Controller of Antiquities. Appointed a Senator on March 18, 1952.

Elected Deputy President of the Senate September 1953. Has business connections with Abdullah Abid el Senussi.

He has taken a keen interest in committees set up for relief purposes and has done a certain amount of good work. He has a weak personality and is always in debt.

113. Taher Karamanli (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli, 16th October, 1916. Speaks some Turkish, English and French. A member of one of the oldest and most highly respected families in Tripolitania. He is popular with all communities but his playboy habits tend to discredit him in the eyes of his Arab compatriots and leading personalities. Brother-in-law of Mahmoud Bey Muntasser (No. 156), who is married to his sister. He is strongly pro-Italian. Has a good presence and the bearing and manners of an army officer. He is not politically-minded. He is a weak character, lacking the spirit of initiative and easily misled.

Educated in Arab schools in Tripoli. 1926, went to Italy. 1927, was at Convitto Nazionale at Torino. 1930, attended a school at Tivoli. 1932, went to the Military College in Rome. 1936, attended Accademia di Modena (Infantry). 1939, commissioned as second lieutenant at the infantry school at Parma.

1939, returned to Tripoli for service with the Italian forces. The Italians made good use of his family connexions to influence Arab opinion in Libya during the second world war. January 1943, he remained behind when the Axis forces retreated from Libya, allegedly to work a clandestine military W/T network for the Axis. However, apart from an agent's report there was never any proof of this. He was interned by His Majesty's Government in March 1943.

December 1947, appointed magistrate at the Ahliya Courts, Tripoli. April 1948, appointed Secretary for Arab Affairs, Tripoli Province. Until 1948 he was president of the Arab Benevolent Society. His triumph in the 1948 municipal elections in Tripoli was exploited by the Italian press as an Italian political victory in Tripoli. February 1949, elected Mayor of Tripoli. April 1950, invited by the Chief Administrator to be a member of his Administrative Council. July 1950, he visited the United Kingdom on a course on County Council work. November 1950, chosen as a neutral Tripolitanian representative (Tripoli area) in the Libyan National Assembly but refused to sit for fear of becoming involved in local politics. This caused Mahmoud Bey Muntasser considerable annoyance.

He was appointed Minister of Health on March 31, 1951, at Mahmoud Muntasser's instigation. On December 24, 1951, he relinquished this post and was appointed Vice-President of the Tripolitanian Administrative Council and Nazir of Justice. Following Fadl Ben Zikri's (No. 233) appointment in December 1951 as Wali of Tripolitania Province in place of Mahmoud Muntasser, Taher Bey, annoyed at not being appointed Wali, started to try to undermine Fadl Ben Zikri's position. He is disloyal to Mahmoud Muntasser, whom he holds responsible for not having appointed him as Wali of Tripolitania. He is very much under the influence of Fathi el Kekhia (No. 115), the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Justice. Resigned as Nazir of Justice in March 1953, but continues to hold the post of Mayor of Tripoli.

Decorations: Order of the Nile, 3rd Class.

114. Yussef Muhammad Ben Katu (Cyrenaica)

Born 1906 in Benghazi. A senior member of the Yedder (Benghazi) tribe. Educated in Benghazi primary school and then sent to study in Naples, where he remained from 1922 to 1925, in which year he acquired a diploma in accountancy.

Returned to Benghazi in 1926 and obtained a post as an interpreter in the Land Registry. He resigned

from this in 1932 and was then unemployed until 1936 when he was appointed to the Department of Statistics. In 1937 the Italians made him a "Cavaliere." In the following year he went to teach Arabic at the Italian school in Tangier, and is believed during this time also to have acted as an Italian propaganda agent. On his return to Benghazi in 1939 he was promoted Secretary of Arab Affairs and in the following year posted to the Italian Legation in Jeddah. He only remained there a few months as the climate affected his health and he then returned to Benghazi to work in the Italian Directorate of Political Affairs. He was awarded a further decoration, the Silver Star.

From 1942 until 1944 he was interned in Egypt, and his name featured on the Eighth Army Black List until 1946. In 1947 he was given employment as a finance officer with the Civil Supplies Department of the British Administration, but he resigned early in 1948. At the end of 1949 he was appointed as an accountant officer with the Auditor-General's Department, Government of Cyrenaica, and early in 1950 became secretary to the Cyrenaican National Congress. A few months later, however, he resigned from Government service—allegedly on account of ill-health. He held no further public position until February 1951, when he was appointed to the Finance Sub-Committee of the Libyan Co-ordinating Committee as Cyrenaican representative. 14th May, 1952, appointed Nazir of Finance in Cyrenaica after having held the post of Deputy Director of Establishments since January 1952.

Ben Katu's general popularity has been limited on account of his Italian background and "Europeanised" bearing. In Benghazi town, however, he enjoys a certain amount of influence and respect. He is intelligent and presentable, and regarded as able and sensible by the Cyrenaican Ministers. The King, however, is inclined to mistrust him. Speaks fluent Italian and French and is not unfriendly towards the British connexion.

115. Fathi Mansur el Kekhia (Cyrenaica)

Born 1905 in Benghazi, and belongs to the Karaghla tribe. A lawyer by profession. Son of Omar Mansur Pasha el Kekhia (No. 116), former Prime Minister and leading Cyrenaican notable. Educated at the Ecole des Frères, Alexandria, between the years 1912-19. Later studied law in Paris, where he obtained his degree.

Returned to Egypt, where he practised law in Alexandria. In 1938 he married the daughter of an Egyptian notable, Mahmoud Khairi Pasha. He spent short periods in Cyrenaica in 1939 and 1943.

In December 1947, as part of the Libyanisation programme, he was offered but declined the appointment of Deputy Legal Secretary to the British Administration. In April 1949 he also declined appointment as a member of the Cyrenaican delegation to Lake Success. In July 1949 he was appointed Prime Minister designate with portfolios of Justice and Education in the Cyrenaican Government and accompanied His Highness the Amir to London in the same month. Subsequently he went to France, from where he resigned his appointment in November 1949. Later he returned to Egypt. He reappeared on the Libyan scene on the declaration of independence and was appointed Minister of Justice and Education in December 1951. He relinquished the latter portfolio in May 1952. Has acted as Prime Minister on several occasions during Mahmoud Bey Muntasser's absence from Libya.

Following the resignation of the Muntasser Government he was not given a seat in the Saqisli Government. He was appointed as the first Libyan Minister to Washington, in May 1954.

Fathi el Kekhia enjoys only limited popularity in Cyrenaica where many consider him to have become "Egyptianised" in conduct, character, manners and mode of living. He speaks fluent French.

Being a Cyrenaican he is inclined to give preferential treatment to Cyrenaican interests to the detriment of the other two provinces of Libya. He is jealous of Mahmoud Bey's popularity.

Order of Independence, 1st Class.

116. Omar Mansur Pasha el Kekhia (Cyrenaica)

Born 1879 in Benghazi, where he now lives. Head of the Karaghla tribe. Educated in Benghazi and Turkey.

In 1899 he took up his first official appointment as assistant private secretary to the Mutassarif of Benghazi, remaining as such until 1904 when he was appointed Qaimaqam (1st Grade) of Jalo. Held this post until 1907. After the establishment of the Ottoman Constitution in 1909 he was elected to represent Cyrenaica in the Ottoman Parliament in Constantinople.

Between 1912-18 he spent most of his time in Egypt. At first he assisted Sayed Ahmed Sherif who was directing resistance to the Italians, but later he collaborated and in 1920 he was appointed adviser to the Governor of Cyrenaica, De Martino. He played a big part in bringing about the Italo-Senussi agreement at El Abiar in June 1921, which amended the El Regima accord.

With the death of De Martino in 1922 Omar Pasha fell from favour and then began a series of exiles which lasted from 1923 to 1945.

After his return to Benghazi in 1945 he was appointed Rais of the Amir's Diwan (Grand Chamberlain). In 1948, on behalf of the Amir, he undertook a special journey to the U.N.O. Assembly in Paris, the object being to offset the influence of Beshir Bey Saadawi who had been active on the part of the Libya Liberation Committee in Egypt.

In November 1949 he was appointed Prime Minister of the Government of Cyrenaica. In March 1950 he resigned at the suggestion of the Amir and as a result of local opposition to his arbitrary and out-of-date methods. He was awarded a pension for his services by the Cyrenaican Government.

Appointed to the Senate and nominated as president on 18th March, 1952. This appointment, which has brought him back to the political arena, caused Mahmoud Bey Muntasser considerable embarrassment as Omar Pasha now considers himself a leading statesman in the land. June 1952, took a libel case against Omar Ashub, editor of the *El Manar* newspaper: lost the case and ordered to pay the court expenses of £L. 750.

Awarded the degree of Pasha by Sultan Abdel Hamid in 1909. Speaks a little French as well as Arabic and Turkish. He still commands a certain amount of respect amongst a section of the inhabitants of Benghazi but is disliked by many of the younger and more progressive townsmen on account of his autocratic character, and by tribal people on account of his former collaboration with the Italians. At present he claims to favour increasing the power of the Federal Government at the expense of the provinces and accuses King Idris of holding up reforms in this direction. Sayed Abu el Qasim (No. 207) and Saleh Buesir (No. 50) are to be numbered among his main opponents. A supporter of the Senussis.

Decorations: C.B.E. The Grand Cordon (awarded by the Italians to only one other Cyrenaican). Knight of the Grand Cross (awarded by the Italians to no other Libyan). Numerous Ottoman decorations.

117. Ramadan el Kekhia (Cyrenaica)

Born 1906 Benghazi. Son-in-law Omar el Kekhia and cousin to Rashid Kekhia. Merchant by profession. Member of the National Association in Cyrenaica. Elected as a Deputy in the Federal Parliament, February 19, 1952.

118. Rashid Mansur el Kekhia (Cyrenaica)

Born 1899 in Benghazi, where he now lives. Member of the Karaghla tribe. Brother of Omar Mansur Pasha.

He was arrested by the Italians after the first British occupation, charged by them with activities in support of the British and sent to Italy for internment. Repatriated in 1946, his activities were for some time confined to his property interests. Recently he began to have political aspirations and became a member of the Benghazi Municipal Council. In June 1950 he was elected to the Assembly of Representatives as one of the members for Benghazi town. Appointed Nazir of Agriculture in May 1952. He showed little interest in his job, and the Nazarat of Agriculture was generally considered to be stagnant under his direction. Relieved of his post, August 11, 1953.

A shrewd and capable businessman with influence among the town notables, he is a supporter of the Senussis and was nominated by the Amir as one of the Cyrenaican representatives on the Libyan Preparatory Committee. He is in addition president of the Assembly of Representatives.

119. Khalifa Khalid (Tripolitania)

Born in Garian in 1895. Graduate of a Turkish military school in Constantinople.

Fought with Suleiman el Barouni against the Italians and later turned against his countrymen and joined Colonel Graziani's forces in 1915. Fought in the Italian army during the Fezzan and Abyssinian campaigns. When therefore he left the Italian army in 1939 he had attained the rank of captain. He was Graziani's liaison officer. One-time manager of Graziani's estate near Garian.

August 1941, appointed president of the Provincial WAWF Council; discharged in June 1947. Strongly pro-Italian. Intelligent and quiet. Actively spreads pro-Italian propaganda. His influence in 1949 was on the decline. Became a member of the National Congress. Tried to cause trouble in the Jebel area but failed. He now claims to support the Government.

120. Mohamed Khalil (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1920. Educated in Tripoli elementary and Islamic schools. Under Italians was employed as teacher and translator.

After the British occupation was sub-editor of the *Tarablus el Gharb* newspaper. In 1947 was appointed chief clerk of Tripoli Ahliya Court and in December 1948 promoted to be president of Suk-el-Juma Ahliya Court. Transferred to Civil and Criminal Court in Tripoli. Appointed Assistant Attorney-General in the Court of Appeal. Appointed President of the Court of the First Instance, Tripoli. Appointed Nazir of Justice July 1954.

Is intelligent, calm and very capable. His legal judgments have been highly thought of. Pleasant and unflattering. Is one of the few self-made Tripolitanians who possess the quality of growing up with their jobs. Is interested in politics but is not a member of any political party.

121. Dr. Ali Yussef Kherbish (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1916. His father was the chief of an Arab band which assisted Colonel Graziani in conquering the Arab rebels during the Italian occupation. At the beginning of the war published an appeal to all Arabs to fight with the Fascists.

In 1946 he was elected executive member of the Nationalist Party. Associates with Italians and pro-Italian Arabs. He is generally considered to be in the pay of the Italian Government. Member of the Arab Advisory Committee on relief. In 1948 he was elected to the Tripoli Municipal Council. 1951, appointed director to Libia Motors.

Appointed Deputy Director of Medical Services, Tripolitania, in April 1953.

Transferred to the State Property Department early 1954.

122. Saleh Kherbish (Tripolitania)

Born Jiado, 10th August, 1910. Brother of Ali Kherbish (No. 121). His father, Yussef Kherbish, was noted for his pro-Italian sympathies and actually presented Mussolini with the famous Sword of Islam when Mussolini visited Tripoli in 1938. He played an important rôle in leading the Berber bands who assisted General Graziani to defeat the Arab rebels.

One-time member of the Ahliya Courts. Was a member of the National Congress Party but resigned in May 1951. Appointed a Senator on 18th March, 1952.

123. Abdel Mejid Koobar (Tripolitania)

Born 1909 in Garian. A member of a leading family in Garian. His father was executed by the Italians for treason. Brother-in-law of Mahmoud Muntasser (No. 156). Looked upon as pro-Italian.

May 1944, sentenced to four and a half years' imprisonment for illegal distribution of ration cards. Released after pardon in May 1946. At one time a member of the United National Front Party, from which he resigned in 1948. Appointed inspector-general of the Independence Party in 1949. Independence Party delegate to Cairo in September 1949 to contact the Arab League during the United Nations discussions on the future of Libya. November 1950, elected Garian representative to the Libyan National Assembly. Appointed president of the Tripolitania Enterprises Company in succession to Mahmoud Muntasser who in 1951 became Prime Minister. Elected Deputy for Garian East to the Libyan National Assembly in February 1952. Appointed president of the Chamber of Deputies on 8th March, 1952.

Re-appointed President of the Chamber of Deputies in October 1952.

So far he has handled the Deputies ably and has proved a capable administrator. More should be heard about him in the future.

124. Rassem Koobar (Tripolitania)

Born Garian 1890. Uncle to Mahmoud Bey Muntasser (No. 156). Family is recognised as quite influential in the Gebel area of Tripolitania, although this influence has suffered to a great extent as a result of Rassem Koobar's being a member of the Independence Party, which is pro-Italian. Under the Turks he was a civil secretary and under the Italians was chief of the gendarmerie although in the early days he was reported to have taken an active part fighting the Italians. For this he was condemned to death but was later pardoned.

In 1937 he returned to Tripoli from Italy. He became politically active in 1946 when he joined the United National Front and became the party representative for Garian. In 1947 he was appointed Arab adviser in Garian Province. In August 1948 he, along with Salem Muntasser (No. 161), was expelled by Beshir el Saadawi from the United National Front. In May 1949 he joined the Independence Party and was elected to the executive committee. In September he led the Independence Party's delegation to the United Nations. In

November 1949 he was nominated president of the Garian branch of the Independence Party. He returned from Lake Success in December 1949. He was in contact with the Italian representative in Tripoli in 1949 and was sympathetic to the Italians regaining influence here but has now changed his views to support the Muntasser Government. Appointed a Senator on 18th March, 1952.

125. Mohammed el Kreishi (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1899. A wealthy merchant of considerable influence.

Was a member of the Nationalist Party but in 1946 dissociated himself from political parties and worked independently. After the British occupation became president of the Moslem Benevolent Society and a member of the Advisory Council for Tripoli district. February 1949, appointed member of the Tripoli Municipal Council. In May 1949 he took an active part in organising the demonstrations against the Bevin-Sforza Plan. In 1950, became an active supporter of Beshir Saadawi and managed to organise financial transfers from Egypt to Libya, through various merchants who had business transactions with Egypt. In April 1952 he endeavoured to effect a link-up between the die-hard Beshir Saadawi supporters and Tunisian Nationalists, with whom he is in close contact.

During the elections for the Tripolitanian Legislative Assembly in March 1953 strongly supported some of the Government candidates, probably as a result of the Fadel Ben Zikri's influence over him. One of the ten appointed in March 1953 by the Tripolitanian Administration to the local Legislative Assembly. On March 29, 1953, he was elected Vice-President of the Tripolitanian Legislative Council.

126. Al Sunni Al Lali (Tripolitania)

Elected Deputy for Sabratha and Agelat Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

127. Senussi Lateiwish (Cyrenaica)

A member of the Magharba tribe. Married into the family of Hamid el Abeidi (No. 5). Served in the Libyan Arab Force.

Became a police officer in Cyrenaica and was regarded as one of its most competent and promising officers. Appointed to the Senate on March 18, 1952, but was forced to resign the appointment as it was found that he was too young to be a Senator. His appointment to the Senate was generally regarded as a plot on the part of Ibrahim Shelhi (No. 210) to ensure that there was no rival to his son-in-law, Mahmoud Bu Quetin, for the post of Deputy Commissioner of Police.

His removal from the police force put him in a bitter frame of mind, but he was later granted a commission in the Libyan army and showed zeal and efficiency in selecting recruits. Given command of the 1st Libyan Regiment. Through no fault of his own, he is on bad terms with Omran Jadra (No. 102), who proposed to King Idris at one time that he should be removed from the army. Visited the United Kingdom in 1952 and in 1953.

128. Salem Latrash (Tripolitania)

Born in Homs about 1895. A well-known merchant of good reputation. Honest, peace-loving and has democratic leanings. Principal characteristic is trading ability. His brother, Beshir Latrash, is Mayor of Homs.

In 1948 he was appointed president of the Ahliya Court of Homs.

129. Awad Lenghi (Cyrenaica)

Born in 1895 in Benghazi and belongs to the Shweikhat tribe. Had an elementary education at the Kuttah School in Benghazi. He is primarily a merchant and business man who, together with his brother Yussef Lengi (No. 130), the former Mayor of Benghazi, became rich during the war by selling sheep to all the opposing armies. After the war they founded a firm, Cyrenaican Enterprises, which is now in considerable financial difficulties and is rapidly losing to Sayed Abu el Qassim's company the agencies which it formerly held.

At the beginning of 1950 Awad Lenghi first entered public affairs when he became president of the Cyrenaican Chamber of Commerce. Later in the same year he was elected to the Cyrenaican Assembly of Representatives and became its vice-president. Appointed to the Senate on 18th March, 1952.

He is loyal to the Senussi Crown, but has far less interest in politics than his brother Yussef. His son was recently married to the daughter of Mahmud Bey Muntasser, the Libyan Federal Prime Minister, and is now the Prime Minister's private secretary.

130. Yussef Khalifa Lenghi (Cyrenaica)

Born 1890 in Benghazi. Member of the Shweikhat tribe. Related by marriage to Omar Mansur Pasha el Kekhia. Wealthiest merchant in the territory, having made a fortune out of live-stock contracts with the Italians during the war and subsequently from sheep exports.

Influential member of the former National Congress Administrative Committee. A partner in Cyrenaica Enterprises Company (local contractors). Appointed Mayor of Benghazi in October 1949. Subsidised Cyrenaican delegation to the session in September 1949 of the United Nations at Lake Success. He was reprimanded by the Amir, having to some extent encouraged the malcontents who staged a demonstration against the Government in Benghazi in July 1951. February 1952, suspended from office as Mayor of Benghazi as a result of allegations of abusive influence prior to the general elections.

Re-appointed Mayor of Benghazi in January 1953.

A supporter of the Senussis. Commands respect among the Arab notables and has influence with the King. Has a reputation for generosity in matters affecting national aspirations. Displays only limited intelligence in political affairs, but has a flair for furthering his own interests.

131. Saleh Ben Ammar Letaif (Tripolitania)

Born in Zuara in 1921. Educated in elementary schools.

Employed by the Education Department but resigned in 1945. Since then employed as clerk at the Corti Distillery in Tripoli. Was a member of the Nationalist Party but left it when the policy of its president, Mustafa Mizran, showed signs of compromise with Italy. January 1946, signatory to a petition protesting against the Arab Advisory Council's resolution asking for a British mandate. A prominent member of the Youth Congress formed in April 1949. In May 1949 took an active part in organising the demonstrations against the Bevin-Sforza Plan.

An extreme Nationalist and agitator whose main interest is creating trouble for any foreign Power in Libya. Has been imprisoned a number of times for taking part in illegal demonstrations.

132. Nicolo Liotti (Tripolitania)

Italian. Born in Tunis, 21st November, 1903.

May 1950, elected president of the Cyrenaican

Refugees Association. Bitterly attacked the Italian Government for failing to relieve the distress of those Italians who fled from Cyrenaica to Tripolitania during the war. In January 1951 applied for, and was refused, permission to form an association for the protection of Italians and the improvement of Italo-Arab relations, to be affiliated with the National Federation of Refugees and Italians in Africa.

133. Dr. Cielia Lollini (Tripolitania)

Italian. Born in Rome, 1st May, 1890. Doctor in the Colonial Hospital, Tripoli.

December 1948, organised a branch of the International Alliance of Women. January 1951, elected to the executive committee of the P.A.P.L. (Political Association for the Progress of Libya). October 1951, took over the direction of the youth section of this party. January 1952, leading member of the Committee for the Exchange of Culture between Italy and Libya, a Communist front organisation sponsored by the Italian Communist Party.

Well-known for her Leftist sympathies and associates.

134. Abdulla Ben Maatugh (Tripolitania)

Born in 1893. Mayor of Beni Ulid. President of the Independence Party branch in Beni Ulid. He is an Italophile who was associated with the "Banda" force which went to Benghazi to help the Italians against the Senussi.

In November 1950 he was chosen as an Independence Party representative for the Beni Ulid area to the Libyan National Assembly. Stood as a National Congress supporter during the elections in 1952 following his resignation from the Independence Party, but was defeated.

Not to be trusted, will follow whoever pays him the most.

135. Yassin el Mabri (Cyrenaica)

Born about 1892. Lives in Tobruk and is Omda of the Obeidat Mariam and Mayor of Tobruk. A Bedouin Sheikh with considerable influence in the Tobruk area owing to his good tribal standing and the money which he has made out of desert salvage since the war. A leader in the resistance to the Italian colonisation. Strong and determined personality without much learning or intellect. A supporter of the Senussis who leans to support of the Ahmed Sherif lineage (descendants of the second son of the Grand Senussi).

Appointed a Senator on 18th March, 1952.

136. Mohammed Tewfik el Mabruk (Tripolitania)

Born in Tunis in 1917. Studied in local Qoranic schools. Cousin of Mustafa Faiek el Mabruk. Came to Tripoli with his father in 1934 but is still a French subject.

Was a member of the Nationalist Party but left it to assist the Fiqih Hassan brothers in forming the Free National Bloc. Was arrested in February 1948 when he agitated hooligans to cause disorder, and released on 15th April on his resigning from the Free National Bloc and giving an undertaking to abandon politics. In July 1948 he violated his undertaking and rejoined the party as secretary-general. In May 1949 took an active part in demonstrations against the Bevin-Sforza Plan. Deported to Tunis in June 1949 for reasons of public security. In September 1949 he attempted to return to Tripolitania but was arrested and redeported. In September 1950 he was reported to be in Egypt, where he is said to have been promised help by Abdurrahman Azzam Pasha. Returned to Tripolitania, May 1953. Ali Fighi Hassan tried to persuade him to take up politics which he was reluctant to do for fear of being deported.

He is an ardent Arab Nationalist and agitator against all non-Moslem Powers. Regards himself as a journalist and talks on foreign affairs with assurance.

137. Mahmud el Arabi el Magdud (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli about 1901. Began his political career in 1936 as an Italian secret agent and performed the pilgrimage twice in this capacity, watching Tripolitanian pilgrims. Opened a grocer's shop on the proceeds.

In contact with Habib Bu Rigeiba, Destour leader in Tunisia, when he passed through Tripoli in May 1945. Ex-member of the executive committee of the Hizb el Watani. Under arrest after anti-Jewish riots in November 1945. Signed the petition of 10th January, 1946, against the Arab Advisory Council's resolution asking for a British mandate.

Took an active part in all the National Congress Party demonstrations and is an irresponsible, dangerous trouble-maker.

138. Mohammed Ibrahim el Malet (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1895. A well-to-do merchant. Ambitious but selfish, generally respected, not of high intellectual capacity.

Executive member of the United National Front. A close associate of the Mufti. March 1947, member of the Arab Advisory Committee on relief. In June 1947 he was appointed a member of the Awqaf Council in Tripoli. In the same year he was a member of the Tripolitanian delegation to negotiate with the Cyrenaican Congress for a united Libyan State. In 1948 he played a prominent part in expelling pro-Italian members from the United National Front. Financed the activities of the Libyan Liberation Committee in Tripoli. In May 1949 he played a prominent part in demonstrations against the Bevin-Sforza Plan. April 1950, invited by the Chief Administrator to become a member of the Administrative Council. 8th March, 1951, appointed Minister of Public Works in the newly-created Tripolitanian Government. 24th December, 1951, appointed Nazir of Public Works for Tripolitania on Libya becoming independent. Took over the Nizarate of Finance temporarily following the dismissal of the Nazir on June 16, 1953. Relations between him and the Governor, Saddiq Muntasser, were very strained and finally he was invited to resign in June 1954 but refused. He was dismissed in July 1954.

139. Hussein Abdel Malek (Tripolitania)

Born Misurata, 1885. Lived in exile from 1924 at El Hammam, Egypt, during the Italian régime in Libya.

He helped to recruit Libyans for the Libyan Arab Force in 1940. Was one of the Sheikhs who was present at the meeting called by Sayed Idris el Senussi on 9th August, 1940, which decided on the formation of the Libyan Arab Force. Appointed a Senator on 18th March, 1952.

Trade is his main interest and politics take second place. Staunch supporter of the Senussis.

140. Mohammed el Mansouri (Tripolitania)

Berber. Born in Zuara about 1895. Head of the Cabila Awlad Mansur but forced to resign in 1948. Owns property and is a rich merchant. Was well disposed towards the British Administration.

President of the Nationalist Party branch in Zuara for a short time. Exercises considerable influence over a section of Zuara population. Spent a considerable amount of his capital on furthering National Congress activities, but following Beshir Saadawi's dictatorial attitude he refused to recognise Saadawi as leader of the National Congress and resigned in 1950. Saadawi made several abortive

attempts to win him back. Supports the present Libyan Government. November 1950, chosen as National Congress and Hizb el Watani representative for Tripolitania, Zuara district, on the Libyan National Assembly. Appointed a Senator on 18th March, 1952.

141. Dr. Giacomo Marchino (Tripolitania)

Italian. Born in 1889 at Borgo S. Martino, Alessandria, Italy. Lawyer.

Came to Tripoli in 1919 and became secretary-general of the Tripoli Municipality. He resigned this post in 1926. Subsequent to his resignation he held various posts, among which were that of court assessor and president of the Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Agriculture. At the time of the British occupation he was Mayor of Tagiura where he has an estate. A member of Dr. Errico Cibelli's Leftist Political Association for the Progress of Libya. He resigned from this on the instructions of the Italian Government when he was appointed Minorities representative to the United Nations Advisory Council for Libya in April 1950. Represented Tripolitania on the Committee of 21. Appointed Honorary Norwegian Consul, March 31, 1953.

A distinguished individual who possesses intellectual and moral qualities. A highly cultured, honest, efficient person, a good orator and highly esteemed writer. An excellent organiser in administrative, technical and financial affairs. His popularity is unquestionable.

142. Yahya Ben Massaud (Tripolitania)

Elected Deputy for Nalut Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

143. Hussein Yussef bu Mazeq (Cyrenaica)

Born in 1916 in Cyrene. Belongs to the Barassa tribe. At present living in Benghazi. Educated at the Italian school, Cyrene. Literate in Arabic and Italian.

Entered service of the Italian Administration in 1930 and held various secretarial posts, reaching the rank of Secretary for Arab Affairs in 1939. Appointed Mudir of Appollonia in 1941 and later in the same year Mudir of Cyrene. He held this post throughout successive occupations by Allied and Axis forces, and until 1945. Then transferred as Mudir of Tocra. Under the Libyanisation scheme he was appointed Naib-Mutassarif, Cyrene, in 1947, thereby becoming the first Libyan to take charge of a sub-district under the British Administration (1947-48). In February 1948 he became Naib-Mutassarif, Jebel district. In September 1949 he was appointed Minister of Agriculture and Forests in the new Cyrenaican Government, and in March 1950 he was transferred to the post of Minister of Interior. Appointed Wali of Cyrenaica in May 1952.

He is trustworthy, tactful, and a competent official who co-operates well with the British and is completely loyal to the King. He proved to be somewhat weak under Saqisli's leadership.

144. Beshir Megherby (Cyrenaica)

Born about 1922. Member of the Karaghla tribe. Belongs to a good merchant family. Educated at local schools. Speaks Italian.

Carries on business as a merchant in Benghazi. Has influence among the youth of the towns. Took prominent part in organising a "Boy Scout" section which was trained in subversive politics and terrorist tactics rather than Baden Powell's ideals. Leading and extremist member of the National Club who has been foremost in criticism of the British Administration.

In contact with the Moslem Brotherhood Association in Egypt, having been introduced by three members in exile in Benghazi. Is interested in business connexions with the Egypto-German Promoting Office in Cairo. His propensities as a rabble-rouser were manifested in the demonstrations in Benghazi in July 1951, and for his part therein he received a minor sentence with stay of execution. Political editor of *Al Difa* and repeatedly attacks Western imperialism in his articles. He is on relatively good terms with members of the American Consulate. Made every effort to sabotage the Anglo-Libyan Treaty. Is in contact with the Egyptian Embassy. A shrewd and fanatical Libyan Nationalist. Is privately critical of the Senussi family.

145. Ahmed Rafik el Mehdawi (Cyrenaica)

Born about 1904 in Benghazi. Member of the Shweikhat tribe. Educated in the Ottoman school in Benghazi and then in Alexandria when his family emigrated there in 1913.

Held a post in Cyrenaica under the Italians in the 1920's but spent practically the entire time between the two wars as a merchant in Turkey. Returned from Turkey to settle down in Benghazi in 1946. Shortly after his return he got in touch with National Association elements, and is regarded as having been a prominent member of the National Association and one of their inner committee. Imprisoned for a short time after the July 1951 demonstrations. Appointed to the Senate on 18th March, 1952. Made every effort to sabotage the Anglo-Libyan Treaty.

He is by way of being a poet and enjoys a certain popularity with the younger and more progressive elements in Benghazi.

146. El Hadi Mishergi (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1911. He originally came from Sfax, Tunisia, and remained a French subject until 1939, when he took Italian citizenship. A merchant and property owner.

Confined to his house following anti-Jewish riots in November 1945. Member of the Nationalist Party. Was in correspondence with the Ikhwan el Muslimeen in 1946. January 1946, signatory to a petition protesting against the Arab Advisory Council's decision to ask for a British mandate. Elected president of the Farmers' Association for the year 1948. Represented Tripolitania at the Agricultural Conference held in Algiers in 1948. Took an active part in the May 1949 demonstrations against the Bevin-Sforza Plan. 1951, went into the hotel business and rented the Del Mehari. 1953, rented the Grand Hotel, for which he has been given a concession for nine years.

Corresponds with prominent persons who live abroad and are interested in the Arab and Islamic causes. A trouble-maker of Left-wing tendencies.

147. Yusef el Mishergi (Tripolitania)

Born 1910 in Tripoli. Son-in-law to Sheikh Mahmoud Bu Raheis. Was a French-Tunisian subject but applied for Italian citizenship about 1940.

Assessor at Italian Civil Courts. One of the signatories to the petition of 13th January, 1946, protesting against the Arab Advisory Council's resolution asking for a British mandate. Was a member of the Kutla Party but resigned in November 1946 after a disagreement with the executive committee. In December 1946 he joined the Egypto-Tripolitanian Union Party and was elected vice-president and treasurer. He spent a good deal of his private capital in furthering the party aims, without success. In January 1951 he became editor of the party's newspaper *Liwa el Hurriya*, which was

financed by Egypt. The paper was anti-British Administration and xenophobic. On 13th March, 1951, he took part in an illegal demonstration against the new Government, and for this was deported to Tunis. He was allowed to return to Tripoli 3rd September, 1951, after the Grand Cadi had guaranteed his good behaviour. He has since abstained from politics.

148. Ali Missallati (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli about 1920. Studied in Cairo but did not finish his course.

Came to Tripoli in 1948 as secretary to the Libyan Liberation Committee and correspondent of *Al Ahrām* newspaper. His dispatches to his paper were affected by his personal feelings and were most inaccurate. He took an active part in the May 1949 demonstrations against the Bevin-Sforza Plan. Member of the National Congress Party. 1952, given employment by the Libyan Government as an accountant in the Public Works Department.

An unpleasant character with Left-wing tendencies who cannot be trusted.

149. Hadi el Missallati (Tripolitania)

Born in Missallata about 1910. Graduated from El Azhar University in Cairo and is now living in Egypt.

Strongly opposed to the Senussi Amirate. Visited Tripoli with the Libyan Liberation Committee in 1948 but obtained little support from the public. Close friend of Mansour Kaddara (No. 110) and anti-Saadawi.

Elected as a member of the Tripolitanian Legislative Assembly, April 1954.

150. Mahmoud Missallati (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli about 1899. Educated in Qoranic schools. Son of an ex-Mufti of Libya, and rival to the present one. Attended religious institute, 1911 to 1918. Appointed secretary in the Sharia Court. 1920, gave religious instruction. He left for Egypt to further his religious studies and when he returned he was appointed teacher at the Ahmed Pasha college. 1935, teacher in the Higher Islamic School until 1940. 1945, headmaster of the Merkazia School, Tripoli. 1949, member of the National Congress Party. An executive member of the Nationalist Party and a leading member of the Arab Cultural Club. 19th March, 1951, appointed to the National Assembly. 1951, supervisor-general of elections. March 1952, appointed Nazir of Education for Tripolitania.

In March 1953 he relinquished the post of Nazir of Education following numerous resignations in the Education Department as a result of his unpopularity, and was appointed Nazir of Health. Relieved of this post, July 1953, as he was not acceptable to the new Wali Saddiq Muntasser. 3rd February, 1954, appointed as Counsellor to the Libyan Supreme Court.

151. Mustafa Mizran (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli, 15th March, 1897. Linked with the Karamanli and Muntasser families by marriage. Speaks Arabic, Italian and Turkish. He is able and ambitious but of elementary education. His opinion is worth having if free from personal enmity.

Served in the Turkish army during the 1914-18 war. Returned to Tripoli and voluntarily co-operated with the Italians.

In 1936 he was appointed to the Municipal Council. In 1941 he was made director of the Arab Arts and Crafts School. In October 1943 he was appointed to the Department of Education. Arrested after the November 1945 riots. Violently anti-Jewish. In 1946 he was a member of the

United National Front. He left this party to preside over the Nationalist Party and is still its president. In March 1948 he was elected president of the Palestine Defence Committee in Tripoli. Until 1948 Mizran had considerable ascendancy over the educated elements in Tripoli, but now they look on him with much suspicion. In 1948 he severed his connexion with the Libyan Liberation Committee.

He took part in the May 1949 demonstrations to celebrate the rejection of the Bevin-Sforza Plan. National Congress member of the Tripolitanian delegation to the United Nations in September 1949 and a staunch supporter of Beshir Saadawi, although the latter had no trust in him. In March 1950 appointed Tripolitanian representative to the United Nations Advisory Council for Libya. He tried to undermine the British Administration in this capacity and was very much under the Egyptian delegates' influence on the council. He was asked to resign his post as director of the Arts and Crafts School the same year. 19th February, 1952, elected Member of Parliament for Tripoli Centre Constituency. Opposed the Anglo-Libyan Treaty.

Has continued to oppose the Government in Parliament, although his influence has steadily grown weaker.

152. Mansour Bin Mohamed (Fezzan)

November 1950, appointed a member of the Libyan National Assembly as a Fezzan representative. Elected (unopposed) Deputy for Chati (Sedentary) and Ghadames Constituency in the Fezzan on 19th February, 1952.

153. Sharif Ali Ben Mohammed (Fezzan)

November 1950, appointed Fezzan representative to the Libyan National Assembly. Appointed to the Senate on 18th March, 1952.

154. Ahmed Muhammad Mukhtar (Cyrenaica)

Born about 1910. Belongs to the Mnefa tribe and lives in Barce. Ex-Libyan Arab Force officer. Nephew of famous Senussi rebel leader, Omar el Mukhtar.

Mainly by reason of popular esteem for his uncle he was appointed in 1946 as Mudir of Gerdes el Abid, promoted and transferred as Naib-Mutassarif, Agedabia, in October 1949, and then in 1950 appointed Naib-Mutassarif of Barce. Transferred to Sidi Raffa in 1951 as Naib-Mutassarif.

A supporter of the Senussis. Conscientious and capable but of only limited administrative capacity. His chief ability lies in his capacity for handling tribal affairs, in which field he makes the most of the general respect for his family name.

155. Abdulqader Muntasser (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli. Brother of Salem Muntasser (No. 160).

March 1946, canvassed Eastern Tripolitania for support of the Arab Advisory Council's Resolution asking for a British mandate. Elected Deputy for Sirte (Suf el Bahr) Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

A pleasant rural person interested in farming and the interests of the family.

156. Mahmoud Ben Ahmed Muntasser (Tripolitania)

Born in Misurata in 1900. Nephew of Salem Bey Muntasser (No. 160). Educated in Tripoli and in Italy. Speaks Arabic, Italian and some French and English.

Co-operated with the Italian Government to the fullest extent. During the Italian occupation he was the leader of the Arab Fascist group.

In 1943 he was appointed member of the Chief Administrator's Arab Advisory Council and signed its resolution in January 1946 calling for British trusteeship. In 1946 he was a member of the United National Front, from which he resigned after his uncle's (Salem Bey Muntasser) dismissal in 1948. In 1947 he became a member of the Libyan Liberation Committee and accompanied the late Taher el Murayeid to Cairo to see Sayed Idris, now King of Libya. In 1948 he was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce in Tripoli. His advice was frequently sought by the British Administration.

In 1949 he resigned the managership of the Awqaf to go into business.

Although he took no part in the May 1949 demonstrations to celebrate rejection of the Bevin-Sforza Plan, he worked behind the scenes. He visited the United Kingdom in August 1949 after Sayed Idris's departure from the United Kingdom.

In April 1950 he was invited by the Chief Administrator to become a member of his Administrative Council, and was elected deputy chairman. In November 1950 he was appointed a non-party Tripolitanian representative in the Libyan National Assembly.

On March 8, 1951, he was appointed Prime Minister of the Tripolitanian Government and on March 29 he was appointed Prime Minister of the Federal Government as well.

Visited London in September 1951 for discussions with the Foreign Office. Visited Italy and France in June 1952 on holiday.

Attended the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth as official representative of the United Kingdom of Libya.

1953, he remained on in London to negotiate the final draft of the Anglo-Libyan Treaty. He made several efforts to resign because of continued interference on the part of the Palace in the affairs of State which he considered to be his own responsibility. He tried hard to persuade King Idris into accepting his advice on political matters, but failed because of Ibrahim Shelhi's superior influence with the monarch. His resignation which had been held in abeyance since September 1953 was finally accepted in February 1954. Appointed as the first Libyan Ambassador to London, July 1954.

Mahmoud Bey is the most interesting member of the Muntasser family. He is a thinking reed which bent before the Fascist wind with the same flexibility as it bent before the more gentle breeze of the British occupation. With this flexible policy he aims at safeguarding the power and influence of his family. He is a well-balanced patriot in spite of the rumours that spread from time to time about his pro-Italian activities. A strong supporter of King Idris who holds him in high esteem. A capable administrator and one who has his country's interests at heart. He is well disposed towards us. Although he was on friendly terms with Bashir Saadawi when the latter first returned to Tripoli in 1947, their relations became strained following Mahmoud Bey's resignation from the United National Front in 1948. Owing to the special interest shown in Mahmoud Bey as the most likely person to become Libya's first Prime Minister, Beshir Saadawi became one of his most violent opponents. Mahmoud Bey was responsible for issuing the final order for Beshir Saadawi's expulsion from Libya on February 22, 1952.

Decorations: Order of Mohamed Ali el Senussi, 1st Class; Grand Cordon Ismail.

157. Mukhtar Ahmed Hassan Muntasser (Tripolitania)

Born 1st October, 1910, in Misurata. A member of the Muntasser family of Tripolitania. Nephew

and son-in-law of Salem Muntasser (No. 161), the president of the Independence Party.

Was a civil servant under the Italians from 1933, serving as a Mudir in Castel Benito and later as Secretary of Arab Affairs, Zliten. On the British occupation in January 1943 he was Secretary of Arab Affairs in Tarhuna and remained in this post under the British until he resigned in July 1945.

In June 1947 he was appointed to Tripoli Province as Secretary of Arab Affairs. Posted to Garian in January 1948. In January 1949, transferred to Kussabat. Member of the executive committee of the Independence Party and one of its delegates to the United Nations in 1949. 2nd November, 1950, chosen as the Independence Party's representative in the Libyan National Assembly for the Misurata and Tripoli areas. Assistant district officer of Zavia in 1951. Appointed district commissioner of Suk el Jiuma, January 1952.

Appointed Deputy Controller of Property in February 1953 following numerous complaints against him from the people of Suk el Jiuma. Appointed Provincial Commissioner, Misurata, September 1953.

Pro-Italian, although later claimed to support the Senussis. Out for what he can get. Not a capable administrator.

158. Mustafa Muntasser (Tripolitania)

Elected Deputy for Giofra and Taworga Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

159. Saddiq el Muntasser (Tripolitania)

Born in Misurata in 1910. Educated in Tripoli and Italy.

Under the Italians he was the only Arab in the Secretariat. In 1939 he was appointed Secretary for Arab Affairs in Homs. In 1947 he was promoted to Administrative Assistant and later to Provincial Commissioner, Eastern Provinces. 24th December, 1951, appointed Nazir of Communications for Tripolitania.

Appointed Wali of Tripolitania on June 15, 1953, to replace Fadel Ben Zikri (No. 232). Since his appointment as Wila he has made a large number of enemies because of his dictatorial methods. The dissolution of the Tripolitanian Legislative Assembly and the dismissal of a number of Nazirs has helped to build up opposition to him. Despite the criticism against him and the frequent rumours of his impending dismissal he has managed to survive as Governor. Although he adopted an anti-European attitude when he first took office, more recently he has become remarkably pro-British and equally anti-Egyptian. But for his megalomania he would prove a good Governor. He is bureaucratic and illiberal by temperament.

160. Salem Muntasser (Tripolitania)

Born in 1880 in Misurata. Recognised head of the Muntasser family. Uncle of Mahmoud Bey Muntasser (No. 156).

Under the Turkish Government was employed as Mudir of Tarhuna.

Under the Italians he held the post of Mudir of Sirte and Taworga. Later he was of use to them at the time of the occupation of Misurata in June 1912 when he accompanied General Camerana to the area, and his shrewd advice and diligence were invaluable in persuading the people of Misurata to surrender. For these efforts he was rewarded with the post of Quaimaqam of Misurata in October 1912. He later resigned this post and after failing to obtain that of Regional Commissioner in Misurata he retired to Tripoli, where he spread pro-Senussi propaganda and criticism of the Italian Government's methods. Subsequently repented of his attitude and returned to the Italians, who welcomed him back.

In June 1939 he was nominated Adviser for Arab Affairs and held this post until after the British occupation, when he was made a member of the Chief Administrator's Arab Advisory Council. He was dismissed in July 1944, after which he lost much of his influence.

In 1945 he played a valuable rôle in helping to re-establish friendly relations between Jews and Arabs following the anti-Jewish riots of 1945. Signatory to the Arab Advisory Council's resolution in favour of a British trusteeship in 1946. In the same year he was elected president of the United National Front.

In 1948 his third offer for British trusteeship and recognition of his claim to represent the territory were both rejected by the Administration. He then established secret contacts with Italian agents and was dismissed from the United National Front. In May 1949 he took no part in demonstrations to celebrate the rejection of the Bevin-Sforza Plan. In July 1949 he formed, under Italian stimulus, the Independence Party designed to further Italian political activity under the cover of a United and Independent Libya programme opposed to the Senussi Amirate.

Appointed Vice-President of the Senate on March 8, 1952, but was not re-elected as such in 1953.

This man is prepared to co-operate with any foreign Power provided that the prestige of his family and his financial interests are safeguarded. He had ambitions of becoming Prime Minister of Libya or at least the King's representative in Tripolitania. He has received large sums of money secretly from the Italian Government.

161. Salem Murayeid (Tripolitania)

Born in Tarhuna in 1910. Member of the famous Murayeid family which had considerable influence over Tarhuna district before the Italian occupation. Brother of Abdussalam who was the Mudir el Mal and Secretary of Arab Affairs in Tarhuna in 1947. Emigrated to Egypt in 1923 and returned to Tarhuna in 1945.

An executive member of the National Congress Party. Member of the Committee of Twenty-one in July 1950. In November 1950 he was chosen National Congress representative for Tarhuna in the Libyan National Assembly.

A weak character, completely under the influence of Abdussalam Murayeid.

162. Bubaker Abu Naamah (Tripolitania)

Born 1905 in Tarhuna. Under the Italians was a teacher in the Arab school and secretary of the Municipality of Tarhuna. August 1948, Mayor of Tarhuna. February 1950, president of the Tarhuna branch of the Istiqlal Party. November 1950, Independence Party representative for Tarhuna area to the Libyan National Assembly. Elected Deputy for Tarhuna East Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

Appointed Minister of Finance in the Federal Government on April 29, 1953. Appointed as Minister of Education on September 20, 1953. When the Muntasser Government resigned he was not given a seat in the Saqisli Government.

Government supporter. A staunch Italophile and propagandist. A man of some personality but a born intriguer and trouble-maker. Not to be trusted.

Decorations: Order of Independence, 1st Class.

163. Ali Ben Bubaker Na'as (Tripolitania)

Elected Deputy for Tarhuna West Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

164. Abdel Gelil Seif el Nasr (Fezzan)

Born 1927. Educated in Egypt, where he was brought up. Nephew of Omar Seif el Nasr. Appointed Deputy Wali to his late uncle Ahmed Seif el Nasr when the latter was made Wali of the Fezzan, 1952. He is a Nationalist who is favourably disposed towards Egypt. Although he is in the pay of the French he does not necessarily give them much support.

165. Mohamed Seif el Nasr (Tripolitania)

Born in Azizia in 1890. Was a Turkish officer from 1915 to 1918. Lieutenant in the Italian police, 1920-21. Sheikh of his cabila since 1921. A member of the United National Front Party and later supported the National Congress Party, from which he was won over by the Government. Returned unopposed as Deputy for Azizia Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

166. Mohamed Seif el Nasr (Fezzan)

Born in 1895. Brother of Ahmed Seif el Nasr (No. 165), Governor of the Fezzan. Spent most of his life in Egypt.

Condemned to death *in absentia* by the Italians in 1933. 1944, he was allowed to return to Tripolitania provided he undertook not to interfere in politics. His ostensible reason for visiting the territory was to inspect his properties in the Giofra. His real mission seemed to be to further the Senussi cause. He was ordered to leave the territory in 1946. In 1947 when the King returned to Cyrenaica he accompanied His Majesty.

Following the disappearance of a certain Sherif Seif el Nasr in the Nofilia area between Cyrenaica and Tripolitania and as the Seif el Nasr family were firmly convinced that Sherif had been murdered by the Hsun tribe, Mohamed Seif el Nasr kidnapped and murdered seven Hsun tribesmen in Cyrenaica. He escaped to Egypt, where he has been ever since.

167. Omar Seif el Nasr (Fezzan)

Born Sirte 1889. Studied the Koran and Muslim law when he was young. He accompanied the Emir Seif el Nasr to Agedabia following the proclamation of the Senussi Emirate during the Italian occupation. He remained with the Senussi until 1925, when he returned to Nofilia. After having played a leading part in the battles of Takareft and Qrara Tertel in the Fezzan in 1931 he emigrated to Tchad. He returned to Libya in 1950 and supported Beshir Saadawi, leader of the Tripolitanian National Congress Party, which irritated the King. Later he made his peace, and was appointed Wali of the Fezzan in June 1954 following the death of his brother, Ahmed Seif el Nasr.

168. Salem Seif el Nasr (Fezzan)

Nephew to Omar Seif el Nasr Wali of the Fezzan. Very much a nomad and has only had a primary education. Appointed a Senator March 18, 1952, and elected Vice-President of the Senate May 1952.

169. Khalil Nassouf (Tripolitania)

Born Tripoli 1893. Spent some time in Egypt.

Not at all sympathetic to the Senussi Amirate in 1946. In November the same year he was appointed an executive member of the Nationalist Party. In January 1949, elected member of the Tripoli Municipal Council. In August 1949 joined the Independence Party, which was known at that time for its pro-Italian sympathies, and became its treasurer. He was assaulted by Arab demonstrators during the anti-Bevin-Sforza demonstrations in 1949. In 1949 was delegated by the Independence Party with Abdul Majid Koobar to go to Egypt to remain in contact with the Arab League during the U.N.O.

discussions on the future of Libya. Later attended the U.N.O. discussions at Lake Success. Appointed a Senator on March 18, 1952. Appointed Minister of State February 22, 1954. He was not, however, reappointed when the Ben Halim Government was formed in April 1954.

170. Mohammed Ben Omar (Fezzan)

Appointed to the Senate on 18th March, 1952.

171. Shams el Deen Arabi Ben Omran (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli about 1920. Studied in Tripoli Secondary School and intended to complete his studies in Italy.

In 1939 elected to work in Italy as radio announcer and translator on the special transmission for Arab countries. In 1945 returned to Tripoli and became sub-editor of *Tarablus el Gharb* newspaper. Appointed to the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1951. Has pro-Italian leanings.

172. Nur el Din Ben Saalem Orfelli (Tripolitania)

Returned unopposed as Deputy for Sirte (Suf el Bahr) Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

173. Mohammed ben Otman (Fezzan)

November 1950, appointed Fezzan representative to the Libyan National Assembly. January 1951, Fezzan representative on the United Nations Council for Libya. 29th March, 1951, appointed to the Libyan Federal Government as Minister without portfolio. 17th April, 1951, given the portfolio of Public Health. 24th December, 1951, appointed Minister of Health.

Following the fall of the Muntasser Government he was not given a seat in the Saqisli Government when it was formed in February 1954. He was appointed Minister of Health in the Ben Halim Government in April 1954.

Decorations: Order of Independence, 1st Class.

174. Wanis el Qadafi (Cyrenaica)

Born in Benghazi in November 1921. Member of the Qasser Hamed tribe. Has an elementary education and knows English and Italian as well as Arabic.

1937-40, private secretary to an Italian lawyer. 1943-48, employed in the Secretariate of the Municipality of Benghazi. 1948-49, chief clerk in the Department of the Interior in the British Administration and also assistant political officer. Early in 1950 he was appointed private secretary to the Prime Minister of Cyrenaica and later in the year appointed Assistant Controller of Establishments. 1951-52, occupied the post of Inspector of Municipalities in the Cyrenaican Government. January 1952, appointed Director of Labour Affairs in the Department of the Interior. May 1952, appointed Nazir of Health for Cyrenaica. This appointment caused surprise as he is considered too junior.

Transferred from Health to Education in August 1952. Very industrious and conscientious but somewhat on his guard against being thought pro-British. Shy of social occasions but has an agreeable manner.

Took over the Nazirate of Agriculture temporarily August 1953. Appointed Nazir of Interior December 26, 1953, and gave up that of Agriculture and Education. Took over temporarily Nazirate of Works and Communications as well in February 1954.

175. Ali Sidqi Abdul Qader (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1924. Educated in local schools. A shopkeeper. In 1947 he was licensed to practise

as an advocate. In 1948 he spread propaganda for the Ikhwan el Muslimeen and since May 1949 has been in touch with Communist elements.

A poet of extreme national sentiments. A pan-Arabist who is constantly engaged in polemics against all European Powers.

176. Abdulrahman Qalhud (Tripolitania)

Born Tripoli 1911. Educated at the Koramic schools and later went to the Ahmed Pasha College until 1937. He distinguished himself by getting a first in the examination which gave him the title of "scholar." 1937, he was appointed as a teacher at the same college. 1944, was offered an appointment as Qadi in the interior but refused although he qualified in the examinations which were held. 1945, appointed Chief Clerk in the Sharia Court. 1950, appointed Dean of the Ahmed Pasha College and head of the religious instructions in Tripoli. Staunch supporter of the National Party, 1944, which became part of the United National Front Party. 1946, a member of the Tripolitanian delegation which visited Cyrenaica 1947 to discuss unity of Cyrenaica and Tripolitania. Member of the National Congress Party. 1949, elected Deputy for Tripoli West Constituency. February 19, 1952, elected Chairman of the Parliamentary Legislative Committee. Appointed Minister of Justice February 1954.

177. Khalil Omar el Qallal (Cyrenaica)

Born in Benghazi in 1895. Lives there and has also recently acquired property outside Tripoli. Member of the Qafi tribe. Fluent in Italian and by profession a public notary. Educated at Italian schools in Benghazi over the period 1912-16.

He was later appointed a director of the Kuttab Centrale, and in 1936 he became a member of the Awqaf Committee. In 1938 he succeeded Dr. Ali Nur el Din Aneizi as Mudir of the Awqaf. In the same year the Italians appointed him "Cavaliere." From 1920 to 1940 he worked as an official interpreter, in conjunction with an Italian notary. During the successive British occupations (1940-42), he rendered services as an interpreter.

In January 1948 he became a member of the National Congress and was elected as one of its two secretaries. In May 1949 he was a member of the Cyrenaican delegation to Lake Success. In September 1949 he was appointed Minister of Health in the new Cyrenaican Government, and in the same month again went to Lake Success as a member of the Cyrenaican delegation. Upon the appointment of Omar Mansur Pasha el Kekhia as Prime Minister in November 1949, Qallal resigned from the Cabinet. Nominated by the Amir in June 1950 as one of the Cyrenaican members of the Libyan Preparatory Committee. In October of the same year he was appointed a member of the Cyrenaican delegation to the Libyan Constituent Assembly, in the deliberations of which he subsequently played a leading part. He accompanied the Libyan delegation to the Arab League in January 1951. February 1952, elected as a candidate for Benghazi to the Chamber of Deputies. Reported to be in close contact with members of the defunct National Congress Party in Tripolitania and one who tried to cause considerable opposition to the Anglo-Libyan Treaty. Appointed Minister of Defence February 1954 in the Saqisli Government. He was given the same portfolio in the Ben Halim Government. The British Military Mission have found him difficult to work with as Minister of Defence.

Intelligent, well educated and progressive in outlook, Qallal has a considerable following among the *intelligentsia* of the towns, and particularly in the National Club, over whose members he exercises a

moderating influence. His reputation is generally good, but he is disliked by the Omar Mansur Pasha group.

178. Saleh Ben Rabha (Tripolitania)

Elected Deputy for Castel Benito Constituency on 5th March, 1952.

179. Muhammad Bu Rahayem (Cyrenaica)

Born in Cyrenaica, 1903. Member of the Bu Jazia section of the Abeidat tribe. Educated first in Cyrenaica and then sent by Anwar Pasha to study at the Turkish Military Academy in Constantinople. He obtained a commission in the Turkish army. During the 1914-18 war he was captured by the British and spent some time in a prisoner-of-war camp.

In 1939 he was in Egypt, and when the Libyan Arab Force was formed he joined it as an Arab officer. In 1941 he was captured by the Germans and sent to Berlin, where he remained until being released by the Allied forces. Upon release he returned to Egypt, where he was offered a job by the Arab League, which he declined.

He returned to Benghazi from Egypt in October 1949 and obtained a post in the Sharia Court. A year later he was nominated by the Amir as one of the Cyrenaican delegates to the Libyan Constituent Assembly. Appointed to the Ministry of Defence as liaison officer following the mutiny of the Royal Guard in Cyrenaica in April 1952.

Has co-operated very satisfactorily with the British Military Mission, who like and respect him.

Locally respected, he speaks fluent Italian, German, French and Turkish, in addition to Arabic.

180. Ali Mukhtar Ben Rajeb (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1918. Studied in local Qoranic schools. Was a shopkeeper until 1946.

Joined the Nationalist Party in 1945. In May 1946 he left this party and assisted Ahmed Fiqih Hassan in forming the Free National *Bloc*, from which he resigned on 20th November of the same year. February 1946, one of the signatories to a petition protesting against the resolution of the Arab Advisory Council for a British mandate. In 1947 he returned from a clandestine visit to Cairo. In the same year he formed the Egypto-Tripolitanian Union Party and became its president. In 1948 he tried but failed to establish branches of his party in Cyrenaica. He started a party newspaper which was known as *Shaolat el Hurriya*. This paper was subsidised by funds received from Egypt. The party suspended activities in December 1948 due to lack of financial support. In 1949 he visited Benghazi, after which he appeared to have turned pro-Senussi.

In December 1952 the Tripolitanian Administration gave him permission to restart his newspaper, but it was banned in February 1953 following an attack on the Libyan Government.

Interested in the education of Arab youth. Generally regarded as selfish and irresponsible.

181. Sayed Saddiq el Rida (Cyrenaica)

Eldest son of Amir el Rida el Mahdi el Senussi (No. 198). Born 1908. Lives at Barce and Benghazi and owns property in Egypt.

Played a part in the resistance to the Italians and took refuge in Egypt.

Vice-president of the National Congress until its dissolution on 1st March, 1950. Since the dissolution of the National Congress he has been somewhat restless. In February 1950 he was appointed Director of Tribal Affairs in the Cyrenaican Government, but this appointment terminated when the Senussi family were withdrawn from Government

employment in April of the same year. He formed a local company in Cyrenaica to exploit sponge fishing off the Cyrenaican coast. The adverse repercussions on Cyrenaican trade with Greece in 1953 of his company's intransigence over sponge fishing licences was detrimental to his prestige.

A fairly strong personality and has some influence with the tribes, but owing to lack of education he finds it difficult to cope with the quicker-witted town politicians.

Is regarded as a possible heir to the throne. His son, El Mahdi, is at present being educated at Victoria College, Alexandria.

182. Mohamed Riffaat (Tripolitania)

Born in Suk el Juma in 1898. Fairly well educated.

In 1921 he was appointed Mudir. Interned in May 1943 and released in January 1944. Appointed Secretary of Arab Affairs in 1944. In 1947 promoted to Administrative Assistant. 25th March, 1952, promoted to Provincial Commissioner, Eastern Province. June 1953, appointed Provincial Commissioner Tripoli Province. June 1954, appointed Commissioner of Labour.

A strong and capable administrator and a pleasant character whose sound views on administrative and political matters have gained him much respect.

183. Sayed Maraajah Al Rukh (Cyrenaica)

Born about 1909. Member of the Orfa-Torsh tribe. Member of the Barce Municipal Council. Member of the National Congress until its dissolution in March 1950. Elected Deputy for Al Marj Mudiriyya Constituency on 19th February, 1952, without opposition.

184. Qadafi Saad (Cyrenaica)

Elected Deputy for Tobruk Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

A moderate in politics who has married an Italian.

185. Beshir el Saadawi (Tripolitania)

Born in 1885 in Homs. Educated in Qoranic schools in Libya. Speaks Arabic and Turkish.

He fled from Tripolitania to Turkey on being condemned to death for opposing the Italian occupation in 1913. Was a Qaimaqam in the Lebanon in 1916. In 1925 he was appointed secretary to Ahmed Nami Bey, the Governor of Syria. Until 1936 he remained head of the Libyan community in Syria and president of the Barqa-Tripoli Defence Committee, which was formed in Damascus to make widespread propaganda against Italian barbarities in North Africa. In 1939 he was appointed adviser to King Ibn Saud. Intelligence reports during the past world war indicated a pro-Axis attitude, but he maintains that he always supported the idea of mutual understanding and co-operation between Britain and the Arab States.

In 1947 he formed the Libyan Liberation Committee in Cairo and was elected its president. In March 1947 he visited Tripoli during the tour of the Four-Power Commission and rallied public opinion to support his demand for the unity and independence of Libya. In December 1948 he visited Paris and London to explain the Libyan case.

In July 1949 he visited Tripoli to meet the Amir of Cyrenaica on the latter's way to London. He went to Egypt and proceeded from there to Lake Success in September 1949 as leader of the Tripolitanian delegation. He returned to Tripoli in February 1950 after a short stay in Cairo, where he contacted the Arab League and the Egyptian Government. He was accompanied by his Egyptian

adviser, Dr. Fuad Shukri, a professor in the Fuad el Awal University, Cairo.

On his return to the territory he began a widespread campaign in support of the National Congress and the Senussi Amirate. Left for Cairo in March 1950 and on his return in April 1950 spent much of his time denying charges of embezzling funds entrusted to him by the Arab League and Arab countries for the Libyan cause. During the formation of the Chief Administrator's Administrative Council in April 1950, Saadawi adopted an obstructive attitude. His behaviour at that time caused a split in the National Congress and his personal prestige suffered in both Tripoli and Cyrenaica.

During the sessions of the United Nations Council of Libya, Saadawi kept in close contact with both the Egyptian and Pakistani delegates on the council and acted very much under their influence. He paid several visits to Egypt during 1951, during which time he tried to persuade the British Administration to accept his views on constitutional development. In an interview with the British Chief Administrator on March 2, 1951, he declared the National Congress Party's opposition to the reforms which the Administration had put into effect and claimed that they violated the United Nations resolution. Throughout the remainder of the year he continued a political propaganda campaign against federation.

Prior to the parliamentary elections on February 19, 1952, he waged an active propaganda campaign throughout Tripolitania in favour of the National Congress, and through financial support from Egypt succeeded in opening branches in all villages in the territory. He attempted to organise widespread disturbances after the elections when it became known that the National Congress Party had failed to acquire a majority of seats in Tripolitania. As a result of this he was deported to Egypt on February 22, 1952, on orders of the Prime Minister with the approval of King Idris. His deportation led to no political reaction. Following his deportation the National Congress Party was outlawed by the Libyan Government.

In 1952 he went on the pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia but was refused permission to return to Egypt by the Egyptian Government following their invitation to the King of Libya to make a State visit to Egypt. He tried several times during the King of Libya's stay in Egypt to return but was refused permission on each occasion. In 1953 he visited Syria and the Lebanon. He again visited these two countries in 1954 and went to Turkey when he heard that the King was expected to pay a State visit in June.

King Idris has never had confidence in Beshir Saawadi and has always associated him closely with Azzam Pasha's intrigues in Libya. He has a persuasive manner when being interviewed and has in the past succeeded in impressing those who have met him. He is out to feather his own nest and is not to be trusted.

186. Abdallah Sahairi (Tripolitania)

Elected Deputy for Garian West Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

187. Ali Sahli (Cyrenaica)

Born in Benghazi, 3rd April, 1924. Tripolitanian by origin. Member of the Karaghila tribe. Educated in Arabic and Italian schools in Benghazi. Speaks English and Italian as well as Arabic. Before the last war was in the Italian army in the Road Transport Regiment in Cyrenaica.

Employed in the Secretariate Section of the Benghazi Municipality from early 1943 to early 1946

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when he moved to the Mutassarifia of Benghazi where he remained until September of the same year. In September 1946 he was sent to Cairo to study. After obtaining the Baccalaureate in 1948 he was sent to England to study law. Graduated from the University of London in August 1951 and remained under training there until April 1952.

Appointed head of a section in the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs early in January 1952. Appointed Nazir of Justice in May 1952.

Is not a politician.

An enthusiastic supporter of ours.

188. Suleiman Ben Said (Tripolitania)

Born in Fassato in 1880. Qaimaqam of Jefren. An Abadite notable of a certain influence in the Jebel area. Held several Government positions under both Turks and Italians. Fought with Graziani against the Arab rebels during the Italian occupation and was accused of murdering several of his private enemies on the pretext that they were rebels. Decorated with the "Order of the Star of Italy."

Until 1946 he was a member of the Chief Administrator's Arab Advisory Council and a signatory to this council's resolution in favour of a British trusteeship in 1946. In 1946 he supported Beshir Saadawi for the purpose of regaining popularity among Arab Nationalists. Resigned from the National Congress in May 1951 after having fallen out with Beshir Saadawi. February 1952, elected Deputy to the Libyan Parliament for Giado Constituency. His main opponents are the Kherbish family.

189. Ali Ben Saleem (Tripolitania)

Elected Deputy for Homs Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

190. Ali Ben Salem (Tripolitania)

May 1951, member of the National Congress Party; but was elected Government Deputy for Jefren Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections, having been won over.

191. Nasr Ben Salem (Fezzan)

Appointed Nazir of Finance and Agriculture for the Fezzan on 29th March, 1951.

Relieved of his post as Nazir of Finance and Economics for the Fezzan and appointed Nazir of Commerce and Agriculture, January 28, 1954.

192. Muhammad Senussi el Saqishi (Cyrenaica)

Born 1885 in Benghazi. Member of the Sur Jaber tribe. Educated at a Turkish school in Benghazi.

Became secretary to Sayed Muhammad Idris during the latter's negotiations with the Italians from 1919 to 1923. Imprisoned by the Italians from 1923-29 and 1930-34. After his release he became an official interpreter and lived in Benghazi. Later he set up an office and became a public notary.

In November 1949 he was appointed Minister of Justice in Omar Mansur Pasha's Cabinet, and in March 1950 he succeeded the Pasha as Prime Minister (the title was later changed to Wali), retaining the portfolio of Justice. On the proclamation of Libyan Independence he was appointed Wali of Cyrenaica, and in this capacity continued his autocratic methods of Government. Was regarded by the Federal Prime Minister as one of the chief obstacles to close and effective co-operation between the Cyrenaican Government and the Federal Government. Relieved of his post as Wali of Cyrenaica and appointed Minister of Education in the Federal Government by Royal Decree on 14th May, 1952.

His transfer was hailed with relief in Benghazi and regarded as a notable point scored by the Federal Prime Minister against the separatists.

During 1951 his popularity in the country declined. He showed a tendency towards xenophobia and became difficult to deal with in the course of official relations. Intelligent and respected locally, he has however little influence with the tribes. Is a supporter of the Senussis and a close associate of Omar Mansur Pasha. Has a reputation for erudition in Arabic. In spite of his attitude when he first arrived in Tripolitania as Minister of Education in the Libyan Government in supporting a closer Cyrenaican-Tripolitanian link-up, he has been inclined to favour Cyrenaica in Cabinet discussions in 1953.

Appointed chief of the Royal Cabinet 20th September, 1953. Became Prime Minister on 15th February, 1954. Resigned on the 8th April, 1954 in support of a decision of the Libyan Supreme Court, which the King chose to ignore, that a Royal Decree dissolving the former Tripolitanian Legislative Assembly was null and void. Since his resignation he has taken no further part in politics.

Decorations: Order of Independence, 1st Class.

193. Abdullah Abid el Senussi (Cyrenaica)

Born in 1908 in Kufra. Member of the Abid branch of the Senussi family and a cousin of the King. Lived for many years in the French Sudan, returning to Cyrenaica in 1948.

Following his return he established a considerable commercial position for himself but made himself unpopular in doing so. The Ahmed el Sherif branch—Sayed Muhy el Din (No. 197) and Sayed Abu el Qasim (No. 207)—dislike him intensely. He is one of the few Cyrenaicans who have shown commercial drive and enterprise, but his importunity in pursuit of gain has made him a lot of enemies. While the King fears that Sayed Abdullah's activities may bring the Senussi family into disrepute with the Cyrenaican Arabs, he prefers that his relations should direct their ambitions through commerce rather than Government employment. Sayed Abdullah is commercially, rather than politically, minded and formed a company to carry out contracting work. In January 1952 he was given the salvage concession along the eastern coast of Cyrenaica. He employed two of the three members of the Ikhwan el Muslimeen, who took refuge from Egypt in June 1949, and appeared to be susceptible to their influence. He is a close friend of Ibrahim Shelhi (No. 210) and Mustapha ben Halim (No. 88), who are said to be his business partners. He was largely responsible for bringing the Banque Misr to Cyrenaica in 1953.

In 1950, while visiting Italy, he gave a press interview in which he stated that one of the objects of his visit was to initiate economic collaboration between Italy and Libya. This caused annoyance to the King, who is critical of Sayed Abdullah and finds his commercial methods, as well as the example set by them to other members of the family, embarrassing.

In 1953 his relations with the Egyptians were closer and he is looked upon by them as a staunch supporter. He is said to have been in financial difficulties in 1954, but Banque Misr came to his aid. In spite of the strong criticism that is made against him, through Shelhi's assistance he still seems to be held in favour by the Palace and therefore able to get what he wants.

Avaricious but shrewd.

Decorations: The Collar, Mohammed Ali I (Egyptian).

194. Nabil Ibrahim bin Ahmed al Sharif el Senussi (Cyrenaica)

Born at Kufra in 1903, the son of Sayed Ahmed el Sharif. Studied at Kufra and Jaghub. Lived at Mersa Matruh in Egypt.

He did not play a prominent part in the campaign against the Italians, having spent most of his time in Egypt from about 1925. Soon after the formation of the Libyan Arab Force in August 1940 he was appointed head of the Senussi Office in Cairo, where he played an important part in recruiting volunteers for the Libyan Arab Force. Although he spent much time at Mersa Matruh and is on good terms with the Egyptian authorities there, he is openly critical of much of the conduct of the new régime in Egypt.

Appointed as first Libyan Minister to Egypt on 4th April, 1953. Appointed as Libyan Ambassador to Egypt July 1954, when Libyan Legation was raised to an Embassy.

Decorations: Awarded the King's Medal for Freedom in 1947. Order of Nile, 1st Class.

195. King of Libya—Mohammed Idris el Mahdi el Senussi

Eldest son of Mahdi el Senussi, former head of the Senussi Order who died resisting the French colonisation of Tibesti. Mohammed el Idris who was born in 1889 succeeded his cousin Sayed Ahmed el Sherif as recognised head of the Order in 1916. He was recognised by the Italian Government as Amir of the autonomous administration of the Oases by the Accord of Regima in 1920. He was invited to assume the Amirate over the whole of Libya by the Tripolitarians in 1921. This was opposed by the Italian Government and in consequence of disagreement with them he voluntarily retired into exile in Egypt in 1923. He was proscribed by the Fascist Government but the Egyptian Government refused to hand him over to the Italian authorities. He continued to direct the resistance to Fascist domination from Egypt.

In 1940, one month after the fall of France, he joined the British forces in the Middle East and helped to raise a force which fought with the Allied forces in the desert war of 1940-42.

He returned to Cyrenaica in 1947 and constituted the National Congress to represent Cyrenaican interests. In June 1949 at the request of the National Congress he was recognised as Amir of Cyrenaica and the head of a local Government with control over internal affairs. In September 1949 he enacted a Cyrenaican Constitution and appointed a council of six Ministers.

In December 1950 the Libyan National Constituent Assembly passed a resolution inviting him to become King of Libya. The Amir accepted this invitation, but at the same time he announced that he would not proclaim himself King until a Constitution had been drawn up and he was able to exercise his royal powers.

In May 1951, at the invitation of the Tripolitanian Prime Minister, he paid a State visit to Tripolitania, where he made a successful tour of the Provinces.

Proclaimed King of the United Kingdom of Libya on 24th December, 1951.

Paid a State visit to Egypt in December 1952. He remained on in Egypt for medical treatment, which did him more harm than good. He finally returned in March 1953. He went to Europe in September 1953 for further medical treatment and visited Spain on his return, where he met Franco.

He married his cousin but has no living children. His wife, who belongs to the Sherif branch of the family, has had several miscarriages and her last child, born in the spring of 1953, was premature and died some thirty-six hours after birth. She

exerted herself, during the King's absence in Egypt, to prevent the resignation of the Prime Minister and is a lady of some influence and ability. He has not a very strong character and is inclined to accept the advice of the last person to see him. But the many vicissitudes of his life have induced in him a natural caution and he is slow to commit himself to any course of action. He knows his people well and is on the whole an astute politician. His attachment to the British connexion seems to be genuinely firm. Speaks no language but Arabic. Decorations: G.C.B.E. Number of Turkish decorations.

196. Amir Mohammed Safi el Din Ahmed Sherif el Senussi (Cyrenaica)

Born 1895. He is the senior representative of the cadet branch of the Senussi house and first cousin of the King.

At first took a lead in the resistance to the Italians, then collaborated and was first president of the Cyrenaican Parliament formed under Italian auspices in 1920. He lives in Barce and has agricultural interests there and at Labraq. He visits Egypt frequently and contacts Assam Pasha and leading Egyptian personalities.

25th March, 1952, the title of Prince was conferred on him by King Idris.

An unstable and grasping personality with unsatisfied ambitions. He is mistrusted by the King. His relations with the British are solely directed towards getting money and he is unreliable as far as our connexions are concerned. He is prepared to put himself forward with Egyptian support as a rival to the King. He is generally disliked in Cyrenaica on account of his doubtful loyalty to the Crown.

197. Muhy el Din Ahmed el Sherif el Senussi (Cyrenaica)

Second son of the former head of the Senussi Order, Ahmed el Sherif. Born 1906 in Kufra. Studied at Qoranic schools in Kufra, Jarabub and in the Hedjaz. Brother-in-law of the King, and a respected member of the Senussi family.

Mild mannered and of a quiet disposition, he is a merchant and lives at Fueihat, Benghazi.

198. Amir el Rida el Mahdi el Senussi (Cyrenaica)

Younger brother of the King. Born about 1890. Lives in Barqa, a suburb of Benghazi.

President of the Cyrenaican National Congress, 1947-50. 25th March, 1952, the title of Amir was conferred on him by King Idris.

Took up residence in Tripoli 1953, since when he has refused to return to Cyrenaica. Appointed Heir Presumptive on 21st December, 1953. Since being in Tripolitania he has taken a more active part in State affairs.

Unambitious and timorous, he only wants to be left in complete retirement. Ill-educated.

199. Muhammad Galheen Serghiwa (Cyrenaica)

Born 1908 in Derna. Home in Derna, but at present living in Benghazi. Member of the Misrati tribe (Derna).

Well thought of by the Italians, whom he served in a number of administrative posts, becoming a Secretary for Arab Affairs, Class II; Mayor of Derna, 1945-48. Naib-Mutassarif, Tobruk, from 1949-50. Appointed Director of Education in April 1950.

Intelligent and capable. Popular in the Derna area. A moderate, with progressive views, he is disliked by Muhammad Saqisli. Literate in Arabic and Italian.

200. Mustapha Serraj (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1905. Educated in Tripoli. Related by marriage to the present Mufti. Was Clerk of Arab Works under Italians.

After the British occupation was editor of *Tarabulus el Gharb* newspaper. Resigned from the newspaper in 1946 and took up the appointment in Agricultural Department. Was elected member of the Farmers' Association for 1948. 1949, executive member of the National Congress Party. Supported the policy of the Mufti during the May 1949 demonstrations against the Bevin-Sforza Plan. 1950, resigned from the Agricultural Department of the British Administration to take a more active part in politics. He became a staunch supporter of Beshir Saadawi in opposition to the Mufti. 1952, tried to take over the reins as leader of the opposition. February 1952, elected representative for Tripoli South Constituency to the Libyan National Assembly. May 1952, visited Tunis and Italy, and in June visited Cairo, where he made contact with the Moslem Brotherhood.

Appointed Minister of National Economy on 8th April, 1954.

He is capable but of doubtful honesty. A trouble-maker.

201. Mohamed Al Shaab (Tripolitania)

Elected Deputy for Suk el Jiuma Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, elections.

202. Ali Ben Shaaban (Tripolitania)

Born in Zuara about 1880. Uncle to Ibrahim Shaaban (No. 203). Studied in Constantinople and later appointed A.D.C. to the Turkish Governor of Tripoli.

During the Italian occupation was pro-Italian and received an Italian decoration. Proposer of resolution of British trusteeship in 1946. He was a member of the Chief Administrator's Advisory Council. Joined the Independence Party in August 1949 and became an executive member; thereafter came out in the open against the Administration and refused to carry out his duties as adviser. Honorary Qaimaqam of Zuara.

Makes outward appearance of being pro-British but in fact he is an untrustworthy and devious old "Turk." Since his nephew's appointment to the Federal Government he has been favourably disposed to the Government.

203. Ibrahim Ben Shaaban (Tripolitania)

Born in Zuara in 1896. Speaks Italian.

Supported Italian rule in Libya and was a member of the Central Italian Intelligence Bureau in Libya during the Italian occupation. During the withdrawal of the Italians in 1943 he was responsible for running Zuara district. Interned for nearly two years in Egypt as an Italian agent. Released on uncle's (Ali Bey Ben Shaaban—No. 202) guarantee on 28th July, 1944, and returned to Tripolitania.

In 1946 he was chosen as Berber representative on the United National Front and in 1947 was a member of this front's delegation to negotiate unity with the Cyrenaican Congress. In October 1947 he visited Italy. After his return in 1948 he was engaged in spreading pro-Italian propaganda. After his return from a visit to Egypt and Italy in the same year he resigned from the United National Front and started an anti-Saadawi campaign.

In April 1950 he was invited by the Chief Administrator to become a member of the Administrative Council. In November 1950 he was chosen as a Tripolitanian non-party representative for Zuara in the Libyan National Assembly. On 8th March,

1951, he was appointed Minister of Communications in the Tripolitania Regional Government, later known as Nazir of Communications; and on 29th March, 1951, he was appointed Minister of Communications in the Libyan Federal Government.

Successful candidate for Zuara Constituency in the 19th February, 1952, parliamentary elections.

Appointed Minister of Education in the Saqisli Government which was formed on 15th February, 1954. Retained the same portfolio in the succeeding Government which was formed on 8th April, 1954. He is very outspoken and has made himself unpopular by his criticism of the Cyrenaicans.

Decorations: Order of Independence, 1st Class.

204. Abdel Razeq Shaglouf (Cyrenaica)

Born 1913 in Derna. Belongs to the Mistrati tribe from Tripolitania.

Successful career with the Italian Government, rising from teacher in 1932 to Mudir in 1937. Served with the British Military Administration, Appointed Deputy Financial Secretary in October 1947. Went to the United Kingdom on a course of study. Was the Amir's special emissary from London to the Tripolitanian National Congress in August 1949. Member of the Cyrenaican delegation to Lake Success in September 1949. Associated with the extremist elements of the National Club in political activity after his return from Lake Success. Elected to the Assembly of Representatives as one of the members for Derna in June 1950.

Was required to leave Tripolitania in May 1951 because of suspicions that he was engaging in subversive activities in connexion with the Amir's impending visit. Returned to Derna.

Elected unopposed as Deputy for Derna Constituency in the 1952 elections for the Federal Libyan Parliament. Soon after this he visited Tripolitania and after having had an interview with the Prime Minister he declared that he supported the Government's policy. Although he was anti-British in 1951 at a time when he supported Besir Saadawi, his views during 1952 changed and he became more amenable towards our connexions.

Resigned his seat in Parliament in July 1952 and moved to Tripoli in September to take up an appointment as senior finance officer in the Ministry of Finance.

Ambitious, keen and hard-working but inclined to be headstrong. Knowledgeable about both Bedouin and urban life. Political outlook erratic. Ostensibly pro-British and a supporter of the Senussis, but also a strong supporter of the Arab League and now an ardent protagonist of complete Libyan unity.

205. Mohammed Shaiid (Fezzan)

Appointed to the Senate on 18th March, 1952.

206. Abdulla el Shareef (Tripolitania)

Born in Suk el Jiuma in 1887. A member of an old family whose large estate was mostly expropriated by the Italian Government. Studied in Constantinople.

During the Italian invasion of Libya he took part in anti-Italian activities and was sentenced to twenty years' imprisonment. Was pardoned after having served half the sentence. Later he became accountant in the Awqaf Department.

After the British occupation he became a head-master and was promoted to Inspector of Education for Tripoli Province. Dismissed in 1947 for misconduct. In the same year he formed the "Mankouben Society" for the restoration of expropriated lands. June 1947, authorised to practise as an advocate in the British Military Courts.

Tripolitania. September 1948, joined the Istiqlal Party and elected secretary-general. In 1948 he joined the pro-Italian movement largely in order to annoy his enemy the Mufti. January 1950, one of the delegates to the United Nations. 1951, appointed head of the Technical School but was transferred in 1952 to another section of the Education Department.

He is a double-faced and not very estimable character.

207. Sayed Abu el Qasim Ahmed Sherif (Cyrenaica)

Second cousin of the King. Son of the former head of the Senussi Order, Ahmed el Sherif. Born 1910 in Kufra.

Served as an officer of the Libyan Arab Force in the 1940-43 war and was subsequently employed in district administration by the British Military Administration. A vice-president of the National Congress until its dissolution on 1st March, 1950. Appointed Director of the Interior in the new Cyrenaican Government in October 1949, but removed from Government service in April 1950 when the Amir decided that no member of the family might hold an official post. Since then has devoted himself to business, and holds the desert war salvage concession, out of which he is rumoured to have made a good deal of money.

1950, regarded by the King as a disturbing influence around whom a group of young Cyrenaicans have collected. He is on particularly good terms with Mahmoud Bey Muntasser. 1951, made several visits to Tripoli. As a result of his removal from Government service in 1950 he became somewhat anti-British in his outlook.

He visited London for the Coronation and now professes admiration for the British way of life. He strongly disapproves of the influence of Ibrahim Shelhi (No. 210).

Is closely connected in business with Saleh Buesir (No. 52).

Intelligent and constructive, friendly to the British but somewhat hot-headed. Has ambitions and is one of the most prominent of the younger leaders, with considerable personality.

Decoration: O.B.E.

208. Taher el Ahmed Shareef (Tripolitania)

Born in 1900 in Tajiura. Studied in Qoranic schools. An authority on Sharia matters.

Under the Italians he held several appointments as teacher and Mudir. Under the British he was Secretary of Arab Affairs of Tripoli district. In 1947 he was transferred to the Legal Department. June 1947, member of the Awqaf Council. December 1947, appointed magistrate of Ahliya Courts, Tripoli. January 1949, member of Tripoli Municipal Council.

He is anti-Italian at heart; honest, intelligent and well respected. Interested in social reform.

209. Salem Ben Mohamed Sharmit (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1917. Educated in Tripoli and Italy. 1934, joined Commerce University in Venice.

Returned to Tripoli in 1940 and was employed as accountant with the Banco di Roma until 1945. Was detained during the November 1945 riots. From 1945 to 1949 he assisted his father in oil industry and meanwhile was a prominent member of the Union Sports Club. In 1947 he was elected president of the Union Sports Club but resigned as he objected to its members taking part in political demonstrations. In 1949 he was appointed to the Tripoli Municipal Council. December 1950, appointed member of the Chief Administrator's

Administrative Council. 8th March, 1951, appointed Assistant Minister in the Tripolitanian Government. 24th December, 1951, appointed Nazir of Finance for Tripolitania.

In March 1953 he was elected (unopposed) to the Tripolitanian Legislative Council as representative of the urban district of Tripolitania. Dismissed from his post as Nazir of Finance on June 16, 1953.

Progressive in outlook and has a pleasant personality but rather excitable. Not politically-minded though his associates are mostly Italians and pro-Italian Arabs.

Since he has been out of office he has tried to undermine the position of the Wali of Tripolitania, Saddiq Muntasser, who succeeded Fadel Bin Zikri.

210. Ibrahim Shelhi (Cyrenaica)

Born 1900 in Ghifouta. Now living in Benghazi. Tribe, Barassa.

Entered the service of the King in 1919 when the latter was in Agedabia. Accompanied His Highness to Egypt in 1923 and remained with him throughout his period of exile. Now continues as the King's private secretary and general factotum.

Conceited and unpopular (especially with the Senussi family), he enjoys the confidence of the King, with whom he exerts considerable influence of an unhealthy kind. Considered by his enemies to be pro-Egyptian and, because of his close connexions with the King, one who influences the King towards Egypt. Not to be trusted and an intriguer who is likely to cause considerable damage to one's personal relations with the King. Has business connexions with Egypt. Is in business partnership with Abdullah Abid el Senussi and Mustapha Ben Halim, both of whom are his protégés.

Decorations: Order of the Nile, 1st Class.

211. Ahmed Swehli el Shetewi (Tripolitania)

Born in Misurata in 1883. Brother of the famous rebel leader, Ramadan Swehli, who fought against the Italians from 1911 to 1915. In 1919, after the death of Ramadan Swehli, Ahmed took over the leadership and hostilities started again against the Italians. In 1923, following his defeat by the Italians, he and his family emigrated to Egypt.

1940, he was actively opposed to the King and refused to accept the idea of the formation of a Libyan Arab Force unless the British Government was prepared to make certain guarantees of independence in Tripolitania. 1947, appointed honorary president of the Nationalist Party in Tripolitania. 1948, became a member of the Libyan Liberation Committee in Cairo. 1949, supporter of the National Congress Party. 1950, in opposition to Beshir Saadawi he resigned from the National Congress Party.

He has a certain amount of influence in the Misurata area of Tripolitania and is a close associate of Azzam Pasha, secretary-general of the Arab League.

212. Mansur Abu Shideiq (Cyrenaica)

Born in 1903. Lives in Marawa and is Mustashar of the Barassa tribe. A leading tribal Sheikh of noble family—made an Omda on the death of his father, who had been greatly respected. He is the recognised leader of the important Barassa tribe.

Mansur was a member of the National Congress until its disbandment in March 1950 and then a member of the Amir's Interim Advisory Council.

A supporter of the Senussis, of quiet and moderate personality.

213. Mahmoud Bu Shreda (Cyrenaica)

Born 1901. Member of the Zuia tribe. Was Mudir of Jalo during Italian times and imprisoned

by them for a short time in 1941 for being pro-British.

Resigned his post as Mudir of Tocrá in January 1952 to run as candidate for Agedabia Municipality. Elected Deputy on 19th February, 1952.

214. Hamid Ibrahim el Shweihdi (Cyrenaica)

Born in Benghazi (Berka) 1912. A member of the Karaghla tribe. Educated at local Italo-Arab schools.

Entered the Italian Administration as a teacher in 1933 and was posted to Jalo. Later he was transferred to schools in Benghazi. From 1940 until 1943 he was a clerk in the Sharia Court, Benghazi.

In 1944 he entered the Education Department of the British Military Administration and was posted as a teacher to Berka School. In 1948 he was promoted Inspector of Schools, Jebel District. With the establishment of the Cyrenaican Government he was, in 1950, recalled to Benghazi and appointed Chief Inspector of Schools. In February 1951 he was appointed as a Cyrenaican member of the General Administrative Sub-Committee of the Libyan Co-ordinating Committee.

As a teacher he showed only moderate ability. He had the reputation with the British staff of being inefficient and an intriguer. He has considerable political ambition and professes great loyalty to the Senussis.

215. Mohamed Rajeb el Sokni (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1894. Educated in Tripoli Arab-Turkish School. Knows Italian and a little Turkish.

During the Italian occupation held several positions as interpreter, Secretary of Arab Affairs, teacher at the Carabinieri School, Arab censor, head of a quarter in Tripoli, announcer on Tripoli radio and also editor of an Arabic newspaper for soldiers. Inspector of Qoranic schools since 1946.

Intelligent Arabic scholar. Is one of the most popular figures among the well-to-do classes of Tripoli. Is a talkative *raconteur* but not a serious politician.

216. Conte Comm. Ulderico Sottocasa (Tripolitania)

Italian. Born 2nd January, 1878, at Reggio Emilia, Italy. Served in the Italian armed forces during World War I.

1939-41, Fascist secretary for Suani Ben Adem. For a long time he was committee director of the Fascist Party in Tripoli, of which he was one of the political heads. He also tried to create an important position for himself in the Fascist Party in Italy. One-time Mayor of Tripoli. 1948-49, vice-president of the Italian Representative Committee. January 1950, member of the Italian Democratic League.

Not popular with the Arabs.

217. Ahmed Aon Souf (Tripolitania)

Brought up in Cairo and until 1947 was a civil servant in the Egyptian Ministry of Agriculture. In 1947 arrived in Tripoli and became Secretary of Arab Affairs in the British Administration. In the same year on the death of his father he became vice-president of the United National Front.

In July 1950 he was appointed a member of the United Nations Committee of Twenty-one, which discredited him with Beshir Saadawi, who at that time was not in agreement with the committee's work. In October 1950 he was appointed as a National Congress representative for Sorman on the Libyan National Assembly, although not with the blessing of the party executive. He was appointed

district officer, Zavia, in 1950. Transferred to Tripoli in January 1952 to the Department of the Interior and transferred to Nalut in April 1952 as district officer.

Transferred to Tarhuna early 1953. Transferred as District Commissioner to Zavia, 4th September, 1953. Appointed Provincial Commissioner, Garian, 1954.

An efficient and well-balanced Government official. He has tried to follow in his father's footsteps in becoming a nationalist, but has not got the same standing. He has been well disposed towards the British and gave the British Administration good service. He is somewhat disgruntled with the way he has been treated by the present Libyan Government. Although outwardly he professes not to be a member of any particular political party, his sympathies were with the National Congress.

218. Ahmed Es Sunni (Tripolitania)

Born in Mizda about 1890. Descended from Abdullah el Sunni, a Sudan Arab who accompanied the founder of the Senussi Order from Hejaz to Cyrenaica. Distantly related to the Senussi family. Studied in Mizda, Kaironan and Kufra. Fought the Italians from 1911 to 1929 when he returned from the Fezzan after Badoglio's general amnesty. Until the British occupation always suspected of fomenting trouble. Head of the Senussi Zawia and may be regarded as one of the leading religious dignitaries in the Qibla.

Appointed Nazir of Zawia in July 1943. Has been since 1943 one of the three advisers who represent the Qibla tribesmen. Since 1948 has been in close connexion with Beshir Saadawi, especially after the latter had advocated a united Libya under the Senussi Amirate. Of an uncompromising character backed by much intelligence. He lost his following during the Italian régime owing to his anti-Italian proclivities. Though having a fine presence and delightful manner, he is not well acquainted with the practical affairs of the Qibla, probably owing to his long absence from the district. A born reactionary. The best that may be said of his efforts under the British régime is that he genuinely believed himself to be furthering British aims by attempting to eliminate all those who had gained power under the Italians.

219. Mubarek el Susi (Cyrenaica)

Born in 1905. Belongs to the Magharba tribe and lives partly in Agedabia and partly in Benghazi. A leading merchant and transport contractor who has influence in the Agedabia area. Business associate of Sayed Abu el Qasim el Senussi (No. 207). Has prospered as a result of desert salvage activities.

Intelligent and energetic. Associates with numerous of the leading dissidents of the National Club, though ostensibly a supporter of the Senussi Amirate.

220. Hamuda Ben Taher (Fezzan)

Appointed Nazir of the Interior and of Justice for the Fezzan on 29th March, 1951.

Relieved of his post, 28th January, 1954.

221. Hussein Taher (Cyrenaica)

Born 1902 in Cyrene, member of the Hasa tribe. At present living in Barce. Literate in Arabic and Italian. In 1911 he was taken by Enver Pasha to Turkey, where he attended the Military College, Istanbul.

Entered the service of the Italian Administration in Cyrenaica in 1919 as Mudira Secretary (2nd class). Served the Italians throughout their campaigns against the Senussi until 1930. Was recommended for a bronze medal for military valour.

From 1930-32 he was interned on suspicion of aiding the rebels. In 1934 he was re-instated and made Mudir of Gerdes el Gerrari, where he remained until 1941, when he was transferred as Mudir of Slonta.

Prior to the first British occupation he rendered valuable assistance to British agents. On the British withdrawal he was again arrested and interned. Released by the second occupation he then went to the Sudan as a refugee, returning to Cyrenaica in 1943. In 1944 he was appointed Mudir of Beda Littoria, where he incurred the enmity of sections of the Barassa tribe for alleged partiality in allocation of Ente farmsteads. Two attempts were made on his life. In 1947 he was transferred as Mudir of Barce. In July 1949 he was appointed by the Amir as Mutassarif, Jebel district. Later appointed Mutassarif of Derna district.

Appointed Nazir of Agriculture and Forestry, June 1954.

A protégé of Ibrahim Shelhi.

A supporter of the Senussis and a protégé of the King, he is influential but not particularly efficient. He belongs to Omar Mansur Pasha's party.

222. Ali Tamer (Tripolitania)

Born in Beni Ulid in 1902. Studied in Turkish and Qoranic schools. His father was killed by the Italians. Close associate of Yussef Lengi (No. 120) in Cyrenaica.

In 1946 he was appointed Secretary of Arab Affairs in Beni Ulid, and has used his position there to further his personal interests. Was a member of the Chief Administrator's Arab Advisory Council. Signatory to this council's resolution in favour of British trusteeship in 1946. Beni Ulid representative on the United National Front. October 1949, executive member of the National Congress. Staunch supporter of Beshir Saadawi. Following a visit to Cyrenaica his attitude changed towards Saadawi. November 1950, chosen as National Congress representative (Beni Ulid area) on the Libyan National Assembly. February 1952, was elected Beni Ulid representative to the Libyan National Assembly.

Strong personality but selfish and ambitious, which has lost him a good deal of support in Beni Ulid area.

223. Renato Tciuba (Cyrenaica)

Born in Tripoli in 1894. A Libyan Jew. Lives in Benghazi and carried on business as a merchant.

President of the Jewish community from 1942 to 1948 when he resigned owing to ill-health. Was the only minorities representative to be a member of the National Congress until its dissolution in March 1950.

Held in universal respect. A sincere and honest character, he is moderate in outlook and reasonable in argument. He is now resident in Italy and it is uncertain whether he intends to return here.

224. Bekir Tresh (Tripolitania)

Born in 1882. Mudir of Gasr Chiar. Army contractor under the Italians. Member of Tripoli's Arab Advisory Council and member of the Arab-Jewish Committee of Reconciliation and Rehabilitation after disturbances of November 1945. Advocated British trusteeship in January 1946. Elected Deputy for Tagiura and Castel Verde Constituency on 5th March, 1952.

A pleasant old man who is out to please everybody.

225. Mario Viscardi (Tripolitania)

Italian. Born 6th July, 1889, in Milan, Italy. Degree of Agriculture (Brescia University).

Member of the Committee of Zavia district Farmers' Association. Held no official appointment under the Italians. Joined the Fascist Party in 1932. April 1950, became a member of the Chief Administrator's Administrative Council.

Has no known political affiliations; some influence on his fellow-countrymen. Popular with the Arabs.

226. Buseif Yasin (Cyrenaica)

Born in 1905. Bedouin. Belongs to the Magharba tribe. Home in Agedabia but at present living in Derna.

Appointed Naib-Mutasarrif of Cyrene sub-district in October 1949, promoted to be Mutasarrif of Derna district in May 1950. Shortly after being transferred to Barce in 1952 he was appointed Nazir of Education in May 1952.

Appointed Nazir of the Interior in March 1953 and relinquished the appointment of Nazir of Education.

Transferred from this post December 26, 1953, and appointed Nazir of Agriculture. Suspended from office April 23, 1954, for reasons connected with the death of a doctor in Cyrenaica. Dismissed from office June 1954. His appointment as Nazir of Interior had caused a lot of criticism.

Inclined to be conservative in outlook, and a middle-course man until the fortunes of the field are known. More the adviser than the administrator. Not universally popular. A supporter of the Senussi.

227. Taher el Yazgi (Tripolitania)

Born in 1875 in Tripoli. Educated in the Turkish schools of Tripolitania and was at one time Qaimaqam of "El Nawahi el Arbaa."

Went to Egypt in 1925. Co-operated in the formation of the Libyan Arab Force in 1940. In 1946 he was a member of the executive committee of the Nationalist Party. In 1947 he became secretary of the Egypto-Tripolitanian Union Party. Resigned in 1948 and is now pro-Senussi.

Not an outstanding character.

228. Sadeq Ben Zaraa (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli in 1885. Educated in Tripoli.

Under the Turks was employed as accountant at Tripoli Customs House. Later promoted to Controller of Customs in Zuara and later Sirte. In 1912 went to Turkey and later to Palestine where he worked as a clerk in Jaffa Customs House. During the 1914-18 war acted as a recruiting officer in Jaffa.

In 1921 returned to Tripoli and in 1925 was appointed secretary to Misurata School. Nothing much is known of him during the Italian occupation.

In 1945, after the British occupation, became headmaster of the Arab Elementary School in Tripoli. Arrested for fifteen days in connexion with the November 1945 disturbances. Until June 1947 was vice-president of the Nationalist Party, from which he resigned to form the Liberal Party and became its president in December 1947. This party never had any following. Discharged from the Education Department in the same year for disciplinary reasons.

A pan-Islamist with an admiration for Turkey. Favoured unity of Libya under Senussi Amirate. Not an outstanding character.

229. Ahmed Zarem (Tripolitania)

Born in Reheibat about 1900. During the Italian occupation fled to Tunis and was an active member of the Tripolitanian Club in Tunisia. Wrote several articles in the Tunisian press advocating independence of Libya.

..In 1943 worked behind the Axis lines under British and French officers. In 1943 visited Tripoli at the request of the British Administration. Came to Tripoli for permanent residence in February 1948 and repeatedly sought a responsible job. The few articles he published in the local press indicated immaturity and lack of general knowledge. In May 1949 he took an active part in the demonstrations against the Bevin-Sforza Plan. April 1952, reported to be collecting funds in Tripoli for Beshir Saadawi in an effort to tie in die-hard Saadawi supporters with Tunisian Nationalists and Communists in order to start trouble in Tripoli to embarrass the Government.

230. Khalifa Ben Abdussalam Zentani (Tripolitania)

Born 1918 in Tripoli. Studied at Italo-Arab School in Tripoli. In 1934 went to Egypt to study at El Azhar University.

Returned to Tripoli in 1944 and obtained a post as a school-teacher. Resigned in 1945 as he did not wish to sit a teachers' examination, but resumed his profession late in 1946. He was a leading member of the Nationalist Party in its early days but later became a Kutla supporter. One of the signatories to the petition of 13th January, 1946, protesting at the Arab Advisory Council's resolution asking for a British mandate.

Is well known for his educational lectures and his professional activities. Not politically active.

231. Abdul Aziz Zigallai (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli about 1911. Merchant. Member of the Tripoli Chamber of Commerce. An executive member of the Nationalist Party which was affiliated to the National Congress. Appointed a Tripolitanian member of the Committee of Twenty-one on 7th July, 1950. In November 1950, chosen as Tripoli representative in the Libyan National Assembly, from which he resigned in March 1951, being unable to support the Assembly's federal policy. Member of the Waqf Council. Elected a Deputy for Tripoli town on 19th February, 1952.

Rather a firebrand and inclined to be full of his own importance. A staunch supporter of Beshir Saadawi.

232. Fadel Ben Zikri (Tripolitania)

Born in Tripoli about 1898. A member of an old family related by marriage to the Karamanli family. Related to Azzam Pasha by marriage. A merchant and property owner.

Executive member of the Nationalist Party. A member of the Revenue Board and of the Provincial Commissioner's Advisory Council for Tripoli Province. In 1949 he was appointed member of Tripoli Municipal Council. March 29, 1951, appointed Minister of Education in the Tripolitanian Government. December 24, 1951, appointed first Wali of Tripolitania on Libya's gaining her independence, and also Nazir of the Interior.

Relinquished the appointment of Nazir of the Interior in March 1953. Dismissed from his post as Wali of Tripolitania on June 15, 1953. Since his dismissal he has been critical of the Federal Government and of the King.

Honest, straightforward and well respected.

233. Suleiman Zunni (Cyrenaica)

Elected Member of Parliament for Derna in the November 1952 bye-election.

In business as a cinema proprietor and photographer.